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ELLINOR;

OR,

THE WORLD AS IT IS.



ELLINOR;
OR,
THE WORLD AS IT IS.
A NOVEL.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

BY
MARY ANN HANWAY.

—————her look and mind,
At once were lofty, and at once were kind;
There dwelt the scorn of vice, and pity too
For those that did what she disdain'd to do:
So gentle and severe, that what was bad
At once her hatred and her pardon had.

WALLER.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
PRINTED AT THE
Minerva-Press,
FOR WILLIAM LANE, LEADENHALL-STREET.

M.DCC.XCVIII.

ELLINOR;

OR

THE WORLD AS IT IS.

A NOVEL.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

BY

MARY ANN HANWAY.

At once were lofty, and at once were kind;
There dwelt the train of ice, and gay too
For those that had with the lightning to do;
So few that were with the lightning to do;
At once were lofty, and at once were kind.



VOL. I.

LONDON:

PRINTED AT THE

WINDMILL PRESS,

FOR WILLIAM LANE, LEADENHALL STREET.

M.DCCCXVIII.

P R E F A C E.

THE Author of the following work might plead, as an exculpation for her temerity in presenting it to the public, the *eager* solicitations of partial friends, by whose approbation she had been induced to let it appear in print; this having been the *trite* excuse for a first attempt, time immemorial; but she disclaims by such *little* arts to *rise*.

The history of Ellinor was originally begun some years since, to draw off her mind from dwelling too poignantly on a recent calamity, by endeavouring to lose, in the regions of *Fiction*, the overwhelming retrospect of *real* misfortune. It was continued at intervals, to amuse the languors of a sick chamber, and is now offered to her fair country-women, on a supposition that, while they dedicate a leisure hour to the perusal, some information and instruction may be gained by a sketch of *The World as it is*. If it should be objected that the outline of the picture is harsh, the tints sombre, that the view has more of the

the terrific than the sublime in its composition ; her answer is, she drew from life, and *truth* guided the pencil ; determining to represent human nature as it is ; having been long convinced the most baneful consequences must result to the rising generation, from reading the monstrous productions that for some years past, have issued from the press, the creation of romantic visionaries, forming a junction between valorous knights, and goblins dire ; to aid which, charnel-houses have been robbed of their bones, and graves given up their dead — monks have become devils, and devils assumed

the form of yielding beauty. By those artful, seductive, inflated descriptions, the young and susceptible heart is tempted to tread the flowery mazes of vice, while the timid imagination is terrified by demoniac incantations !!

“ The times have been

“ That when the brains were out, the man would die,

“ And there's an end ; but now they rise again,

“ With twenty mortal murders on their crown.”

But let us hope, in the enlightened æra of nearly the expiration of the eighteenth century, that the *rage* for supernatural agency will soon terminate, and those hordes of ghosts that have swarmed forth from the *black forests* of the north, and

and taken their station on the *trembling* shelves of our circulating libraries, will soon be banished to the *Red Sea*, where superstition supposes they hold their midnight revels ! Those once disappeared, sense, wit, and nature will regain their empire ; and we shall reap instruction, and renovated delight, from perusing the writings of a Richardson, a Fielding, and a Smollet.

The author has attempted, through the following *fiction*, to preserve an appearance of probability ; nor is she conscious of describing her characters acting otherwise than they would have done
in

in *real* life, had they been exposed to those trying situations she has made an effort to delineate.

The Dramatis Personæ are composed of mere men and women, fallable mortals ; who, exposed to temptations, felt the judgment of the head overpowered by the susceptibility of the heart. But when, in early youth, has been implanted a just sense of religion, honour, and virtue, these will ultimately conquer the ebullitions of improper passions ; while those personages the readers will meet with in the course of the work, who, fashionably sceptical, feared

feared not, by their conduct, to offend a Deity whose existence they *doubted*, and were placed too high in rank to value worldly censure, had nothing to deter them from giving unbounded scope to those vicious propensities, that could alone gratify their depraved hearts. She has portrayed them to serve as a *pharos* to guard the unsuspecting confidence of trusting youth, from the machinations of the envious, and the glosing artifices of the specious deceiver.

Most ardently does she hope her attempts will answer the purposes for which they were exerted ; to convince
the

the patient sufferers of undeserved persecution, that truth, honour, rectitude, and virtue, will decidedly triumph, and happiness be their reward.

To a candid, discriminating, generous public, this work is inscribed, who, the author is convinced, will read with lenity, and condemn with equity; while friends may be partial, enemies severe, the unbiaſſed voice of general opinion will be that of *truth*: by this criterion ſhe is content to abide, and to its juſtice moſt cheerfully ſubmits the cauſe of her heroine.

ELLINOR.

CHAP. I.

IN the black and dreary month of November, when *Englishmen* are supposed to be propelled by morbid Melancholy to desperate acts,—when their minds, impregnated by the fogs of the climate, preclude all comfort from external objects, nor feel any pleasure in a view of past, present, or to come,—in this torpid season do the sons of Britain find it as difficult to shake off inanity, as the all-cheering rays of the sun to break through the dense atmosphere by which its splendour is oppressed.

On the fifth of this portentous month, a day marked for dark deeds, when the *alarmists* of James's reign trembled at gunpowder plots, and Guy Faux's dark lantern, on the anniversary of this day 179—, did Mr. Howard find himself seated in the Dover post-coach, at an early hour in the morning, with no plots to fear, or alarms to dread, but those that might assail him from a pair of bright eyes, which shone through tears that hung on their silken lashes, sparkling like the early frost of autumn at the first beams of Cynthia.

This silent address to his feelings roused him from a profound reverie, in which he had indulged himself from his first taking his place, till day-light presented this interesting object to his wondering sight, and chased all others from his imagination. Availing himself of that prescriptive right, which has been allowed time immemorial to travellers in a stage coach, he addressed his companion with observations on the uncomfortableness

of the day,—that nothing could reconcile him to a journey in such weather but urgent necessity; said that he was in that predicament, but sincerely hoped that his fair companion was not compelled to travel by such disagreeable motives. When an Englishman has once prevailed on himself to make the first advances to conversation, which is ever with him a great effort, he feels happy. We speak of men of sense, who are diffident and unobtrusive; not the fops of the day who infest our public places of amusement, and annoy our private parties,—that, like small rivers, show their shallowness by their babbling, while deep ones keep the “even tenor of their way.”

The lady, touched by the kind and gentle address of her fellow traveller, who appeared to her in the form of a ministering angel, softened by the voice of condolence and attention, relieved her full heart by a copious flood of tears.—Howard, hurt to think he had been the occasion of them, earnestly so-

licited her pardon, while he severely condemned himself for the unwarrantable curiosity that had given her pain, by occasioning a renewal in her mind of those sorrows with which she seemed oppressed: he entreated her, as the only method of reconciling him to himself, that she would instruct him, if he could be in any manner useful to her.

As yet the lady had not uttered a word; but, on this address, she lifted up her fine eyes, and wiping away the fast-falling tears, she replied, "Sir, you have no occasion to accuse yourself for the sorrow with which you see me afflicted; that my overcharged bosom could not suppress at the appearance of pity and commiseration, you, a stranger, seemed to feel for a deserted orphan, thrown on a world of whose customs she knows nothing, on which she has no claims, nor on any of its inhabitants who will allow them."

Here her eyes flashed indignation, and her "eloquent blood spoke in her cheek,"

as

as her ideas recurred to the undeserved cruelty of those to whom she owed her existence, that thus exposed her to "the thousand hardships flesh is heir to."—Henry Howard, from the moment she began to speak, was all eye and ear; a more fascinating object he had never seen; her expressive countenance appeared a perfect index of her mind; in which might be clearly read, while reciting her situation, her whole soul, which beamed in her fine hazle eyes.

He was a disciple of Lavater, and often formed his opinion of men from their looks, rather than from their words; he had frequently been deceived in his judgments, but he prognosticated that *now* there was no fear of being so; the youngest pupil in the science of physiognomy might have decidedly pronounced that she had wit, corrected by good sense, a vivid imagination, with a mind capable of great exertions when roused to energy; a heart susceptible of gratitude, friendship, love, but proudly rising against
B 3 insult.

insult. Qualities like these he read in embryo in her countenance ; as yet they had not been called into action.—How far the Lavaterian system may be trusted, as the heroine's character develops itself, our readers will be shewn.

He observed, that those who could forsake such youth, beauty and innocence, must be the most obdurate and insensible of their species ! again assured her, that he felt the greatest interest for her helpless situation ; that, if she could prevail on herself to acquaint him with the cause of her present sorrow, and his advice, interest, or fortune, could be of any use towards its alleviation, she might command them. His age, so much beyond her own, he hoped would be an inducement with her to honor him with her friendship and confidence ; that if she would permit him to serve her as a brother, he would not, after the present day, solicit to see her, but in the company of her friends.

After

After a pause of some moments, her eyes beaming with gratitude, she thus addressed him: "Alas, Sir, the poor isolated being, about whom you interest yourself, has never experienced the soothing tenderness of a mother; never received the protection of a father; feels not that she has even *one* friend to guide her through the perilous paths of a world, of which she knows nothing; to whose usages she is perfectly a stranger; therefore, I fear, in its judgment I am doing wrong, to commit myself to a gentleman of a few hours' acquaintance; but my want of knowledge of its customs, and the relief the oppressed heart feels when it unburdens itself to the ear of commiseration, will, I flatter myself, plead for me with the candid part of it. Your apparent pity, your friendly offers of assistance, which though I trust I shall not want, but of which I shall ever retain a grateful remembrance, induce me to comply with your request, and acquaint you with all I know of myself: there is in your voice and manner, a something that

assures me, I shall never have occasion to repent my confidence.

At this moment the coach stopped where they were to breakfast, which postponed her promised communication, just as Mr. Howard had politely thanked her for the honor she did him, in supposing he might be trusted; avowing, that to serve her, and not to gratify an idle curiosity, was his only inducement for presuming to make the request.—Having handed out his fair fellow-traveller, when they were shewn into a room, he was as much struck with her figure, as before he had been with her face.

While they are sipping their coffee, we will try to oblige the novel-reading Misses with a description of our heroine, for we would gain their favour when we can, as we doubt they will not be *immensely fond* of our book; for we cannot consent to drown their pretty eyes in the tears of sensibility, for the hair-breadth escapes, or the heart-rending

rending sorrows of our lovers. We cannot rummage old chests or closets, break cobwebs and disturb spiders, to drag to light the justly-exploded legends of ghosts in armour, and haunted chambers. We cannot, to edify or terrify our young readers, oblige them to clamber up broken stairs, dive with them into subterraneous vaults, or send them on a midnight circuit of tumble-down castles. We cannot "freeze their young blood, or make their fell of hair to stand an end." Forbid by conscience, we cannot overstep the bounds of probability, to send them wanderers to a land of war, rapine and murder, inuring their youthful minds to scenes of carnage, by killing four-and-twenty persons in our first volume. We profess to love *peace*, and most ardently look forward to that period when the olive branch shall again wave over our citadels; therefore we cannot consent to harden the hearts of the young and innocent, by familiarising their ideas to shock-

ing and sanguinary deeds, by such death-dealing publications.

Unfortunately for us as novel writers, our words and actions must bear some analogy; we have not noble daring sufficient to dictate to others a line of conduct that we feel conscious of having never pursued: no, though we are ambitious of fame, and will exert ourselves to the utmost stretch of our abilities, to merit the meed of praise from the discriminating critic, we can alone consent to receive it from what we should ourselves derive pleasure,—the representing our characters acting, as human propensities impel them, on the stage of *real life*.

Our heroes and heroines, if we may take leave so to name mere men and women, will have some virtues, mixed with a tolerable seasoning of faults and follies; but we hope the good will preponderate. Such is human nature, and as such we shall attempt to delineate her, “nothing extenuate, nor set down ought in malice.”

Having

Having now we hope deprecated the wrath of our readers, and honestly informed them thus early, what is to be expected from us, that those who seek "faultless monsters that the world ne'er saw," or who can alone be charmed by the *marvellous*, may throw our work by, while those who love to follow Nature through her playful *vagaries*, will, we trust, after reading the following description of our heroine, feel an interest in attending her to the end of her eventful history.

CHAP. II.

ELLINOR Harcourt was rather above the middle size, of the most light and Sylph-like figure, appearing as if she could bound over "new-fallen snow, nor leave a track behind;" her face a little inclined to the oval, her eyes were of the darkest hazle, her nose small and aquiline, her teeth white and even, her cheek, in which the lily and rose were most beautifully blended, was shaded by a profusion of auburn hair; her round arms and taper fingers appeared to be modelled from those of the Grecian Venus.

Such was the enchanting figure Howard now handed into the carriage, with the most
eager

eager curiosity to hear her story. Luckily no more passengers presented themselves to prevent its gratification: as soon, therefore, as the vehicle had jumbled over the stones of Canterbury, his fair fellow-traveller, waiting not to be reminded of her promise, thus addressed him:—

“Who were the authors of my existence I know not, or whether they yet live: the first ideas I can recollect were those of my residing in a cottage with the woman that I believe nursed me, who used sometimes to take me with her to a lady that lived in a fine house, who carested me, and gave me sweetmeats and toys. Of her I became so fond, that I was continually teasing my nurse to take me to her. I have since thought that my early impetuosity hastened at that time my departure, as it has since accelerated my present *fate*; for I was soon after taken from her, and placed at a school in the country. I was then said to be four years of age; my board was paid for by a woman,
who

who came regularly once a year for that purpose, just saw me, told me to obey my governess, and be good.

“ Thus my time passed on for three years : at this period my sensibility first began to shew itself,—when I found that I was left alone at the holidays, and all my young companions were sent for to their homes to receive the careffes of their parents, relations, and friends, while I appeared to be noticed by no one. This reflection, young as I was, swelled my heart to agony, and suffused my eyes with tears, which attracted the notice of the governess of the school : she inquired the cause of my sorrow. I replied, that I cried because I had no papa nor mamma like the other young ladies, to bring me toys, to praise me for working my sampler, or to fetch me home at the holidays, to take me to a place called the playhouse, or to shew me the wax-work, and many other pretty things, that the Misses boasted of having seen when they returned to school ; that I wished

wished I had died and been buried in the church-yard instead of Miss Mary Ballard, who had so many relations and friends to cry and be sorry for her, while I had nobody to grieve for or to regret me. I hoped God Almighty would not be angry with me for wishing that I had gone in her place, for then it would have been better for both.

“My governess seemed much struck at my complaints, and with the manner in which the feelings aroused by my situation had enabled me to express them. She took me on her lap, soothed my little sorrow, said I must not think my case particularly hard, though she allowed it was not so pleasant as when my school-fellows were with me; that she would be my mamma, and always treat me kindly, while I was a good girl, and behaved properly; promised I should go on a visit with her on the morrow, where there were some young ladies of my own age. I felt grateful for her kindness; and having kissed and thanked her, dried my eyes with my

my frock, and tripped away, with my little heart much lightened by having unburdened itself of its griefs.

“ While I remained with this truly good woman she kept her word, and always paid me as much attention as if I had entered her school under more fortunate auspices: the natural liveliness of my temper returned, nurtured by her affection; but my mind ever retained the impression that had been made upon it by my forsaken situation. Two years passed on as the former three had done. Eager to acquire knowledge, I learned rapidly whatever was taught me: I particularly excelled in dancing, which occasioned the master to take me out often in preference to the elder girls, when he meant to exhibit his own capability of teaching that science. This occasioned a jealousy in those who thought themselves of superior consequence to the little Ellinor, that *belonged to nobody*. This was the title given me by a Miss of thirteen, sole heiress of a grocer

grocer and common-councilman of London, who it was said had married his cook-maid. This young lady blended in her appearance all the fat and vulgarity of her mother, with the avarice and low cunning of her father; her temper was violent and overbearing; affronting her equals, oppressing her inferiors, and meanly cringing to her superiors. This conduct rendered her despised by each party; but as she abounded in pocket money and sweetmeats, she was sometimes enabled to bribe over those to her interest who were not so plentifully supplied.

“I was her aversion, for I would not receive her favours, or tamely submit to her insults. All that pride and irritable spirit that I fear is natural to me, broke forth at the insolent behaviour and taunting reproaches of Miss Cayenne, (for so was this young lady named) and urged me on to recriminate upon my adversary. I said, to be sure it must be confessed I was not so
large

large, fat, or vulgar; I had not a cook to my mother, nor a grocer to my father, but that I dare say I did belong to *somebody*, who would one day come and take the part of the little Ellinor, and make Miss Cayenne repent her treatment of me. Childish vanity made me add, 'it is only ill-natured spite, Miss, because Mr. Caper says I dance better than you.' I should beg your pardon, Sir, for thus troubling you with the altercations of school girls, but that it led to a change in my situation.

"From this moment war was declared between Miss Cayenne and myself; from words we sometimes proceeded to blows—she constantly endeavouring to oppress me, and I, to the utmost of my ability, repelling her insults. Our frequent altercations created two parties in the school; I had all on my side who were proof against bribery and corruption; with those who possessed good hearts, my deserted situation was a strong argument in my favour; my
cheerful

cheerful and obliging temper made me a favourite, whilst my opponent was shunned and despised.

“About this period my guardian, as she was called, arrived, when I was sent for by her into the parlour. To her extreme surprise I thus addressed her:—‘I beg, madam, that you will inform me to whom I belong, why I am always kept here, and the reason I am never permitted to visit my parents; I entreat you to tell me who they are. If you will not communicate this intelligence, pray take me to that good lady who used to caress and be fond of me before I was brought here, whom I remember to have dearly loved.’ When, bursting into a passion of tears, I added, ‘surely every one will not desert the little Ellinor, that *belongs to nobody*’—the only appellation bestowed on me in this place.

“When astonishment at this spirited and unexpected address permitted her, she expressed

expressed to Mrs. Austin her surprise and anger at what she termed my forward pertness; declared that she could not suppose such ideas would have entered the head of a chit, not yet eleven years old, had they not been put there to gratify an improper curiosity; but, to prevent that effectually, she would at the same time, next year, remove me to a situation where I could not ask impertinent questions; or, if I still did, she would take care they should not be answered. This threat did not intimidate me; I persisted in childishly thinking that any change of situation from the present must prove advantageous.

“ My governess and guardian did not part on the best terms; she blaming Mrs. Austin for giving me too much encouragement, and allowing me too great liberties; the former declared that I enjoyed only the privilege of thinking; she knew not how to prevent my doing so, since the Almighty had bestowed upon me powers of discrimination.

nation. In consequence of the information I had just received, that I was to remain with Mrs. Austin only another twelvemonth, I was determined to devote the whole of that period to improvement: books were my delight; from them I hoped to receive information; but how they were to be procured was the question. In this dilemma I thought of one of the housemaids, who had ever shewn a fond partiality to me; to her I took an early opportunity of communicating my wants and wishes;—she told me that her grandmother was a very great reader, and that she would ~~ax~~ her to lend me some books. I promised in return to purchase her a new ribbon out of my pocket money, and thus the bargain was soon struck.

Nanny faithfully fulfilled her engagement; for she privately conveyed to me the entire library of the old lady, which consisted of *The Whole Duty of Man*, *Drelincourt on Death*, and *The Pilgrim's Progress*. To read these celebrated

celebrated works, for *read* them I did, I deprived myself of sleep, by waking at five o'clock in the morning. I was neither amused nor instructed by the two former; for how indeed could I comprehend them? but the latter afforded me great pleasure, as I looked upon myself as the *Hopeful*, that was one day to conquer the *Giant Despair*.

“My constant enemy, Miss Cayenne, one ill-fated morning surprised me in bed, in the very act of reading my favourite John Bunyan, and flew on the wings of rancour to give evidence against me to Mrs. Austin, who sending for me immediately, demanded whether it was a fact, that I pursued my studies at such unseasonable and improper hours? what books they were, and in what manner I had procured them? Unconscious of having done wrong, I boldly avowed the truth of the accusation, at the same time I produced my whole library.—She could not repress a smile, as she read their *titles*, observed, that I was an uncommon

mon character, and if I really loved reading, to prevent in future my descending to duplicity to gratify so laudable an inclination, she would herself furnish me with books, and direct my studies into a proper channel.— This unexpected kindness threw my spirits into a delirium of joy, I flung my arms about her neck, and almost smothered her with kisses to convince her of my gratitude, calling her my only mamma, my best friend.

“ My governess kept her word; and by her permission I read Goldsmith’s history of England, the Theatre of Education, Mrs. Chapone’s Letters, Dr. Gregory’s Advice to his daughters. Like Rousseau, I *devoured* books, and having a very retentive memory, I made all that I read my own.— In this, to me pleasant employment, the allotted year seemed to fly, and finished just as I began to comprehend the folly of wishing to quit my present situation. My mind expanded beyond my years, its energies were called into action sooner than girls of a similar

similar age, by my appearing to have no one to lean on for support. When obliged to act and think for ourselves, we make efforts, that, with happier prospects, we should shrink from, nor believe that we are capable of undertaking, till the mind is propelled to exertion by adventitious circumstances.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

“AT the appointed time my guardian arrived in a post chaise, and after discharging all the demands of Mrs. Austin, (for I should have before observed, that she provided every thing for me, that I was always decently dressed), she gave directions for packing up my clothes, and I was summoned to attend her. I dared not disobey ; when, after having taken an affectionate farewell of my kind governess and my young companions, who were all in tears at my abrupt departure, I followed my absolute tyrant in silence to the chaise, and we commenced our journey.

“ There was a something in this woman’s manner and treatment of me, so truly cold and repressive, that notwithstanding she appeared to be the only being from whom I derived my support, and though my heart was ever ready to overflow with gratitude, for the smallest attention from any indifferent person, I never could *feel* the least affection for *her*. I suppose she was between forty and fifty years of age, with no pretensions to beauty, and a most austere countenance, that repelled all advances to friendship, love, or confidence. Rigid by nature, she appeared to be incrustated in a coat of reserve, that the most powerful claims on her sensibility could not, for a single moment induce her to throw off.

“ With this agreeable travelling companion, the only language I used, as we drove on rapidly, was sighs and tears ; on perceiving which, she, in a haughty and taunting manner, thus addressed me.

“ Why

“ Why all this assumed sorrow at quitting a house and its inmates, who, if they had any claims upon your affections, you surely, a year since, would not have requested to leave? You then desired to do so; your prayer has been granted; of what have you to complain? If the situation to which you are now going is still less to your taste, you must suffer it, as a proper punishment for your childish folly and impatient curiosity, that has compelled those, to whom you were indebted for the means of existence, to check propensities that can never benefit yourself, and may be productive of very disagreeable consequences, to those friends on whom alone you depend. I should not speak thus explicitly to a girl of your age, had not your late governess informed me that you were a great reader,—a reasoner,—a female philosopher in the egg-shell; such a forward plant will, I doubt not, understand me, and act according to the great talents with which you are said to be endowed by Nature.”

“ On observing that I was going to reply to this ironical speech, she stopped me, by saying that she declined all altercation; what she expected from me was implicit obedience to her *will*, and desired to have no more conversation on the subject, as she was decidedly determined to answer no questions, nor enter into any explanation whatever.— Perceiving the cruelty of her nature, by her unjust reproaches, for my only having wished to be made acquainted with the authors of my being, my spirit rose against her injustice; pride dried my eyes, and determined me never to complain more to this unfeeling guardian, but to patiently acquiesce in the determination of her employers,—trusting my cause to that just God, from whom I had been taught, by my good governess, to hope protection and support.

“ In consequence of this resolution, we journeyed on in almost perfect silence. At the end of the second day, I was charmed and astonished at the sight of the ocean :—

this was, to me, a new and most sublime object, having never before seen any body of water of a larger circumference than the *duck pond* in Mrs. Austin's garden. Ships, which I now beheld for the first time, were another cause of wonder and admiration: I enquired of my companion, how they were conducted through that vast sea, on which they appeared to float so securely. She replied, it would be useless for me to know, if she was *learned* enough to inform me; that it was sufficient for me to understand, that one of those vessels would convey me, she hoped, in safety to France, where I was now going, in all human probability, to reside for the remainder of my life.

“ Shocked and terrified at the prospect of being once more left, surrounded by strangers, my spirit gave way: I knelt, I wept, and entreated her, who appeared to be the *arbitress* of my *fate*, that she would inform me, who were my parents—or if they yet lived? for surely, I exclaimed, they

would not punish their child, by banishment from them for ever, who was innocent of having offended. I solicited her, that she would not tear me from all I knew, and who did love me, to leave me in a strange land, with those who could have no inducement to do so.

“ She replied, with the most cold and cutting indifference, that my *fate* was inevitably *fixed*; that it was not in her power to change it had she the inclination; that if I really possessed that superlative understanding above my years, that had been imputed to me, by the partial fondness of my late governess, I should best prove the fact, by being contented with the situation in which my friends meant to place me; instead of, by speculative reasonings on the whys, and the wherefores, render my future existence miserable, which a *quiet* acquiescence would make at least comfortable.

“ Finding

“ Finding all my efforts fruitless, to move this woman’s apathy, I prepared to take her advice, and make a merit of dire necessity : With those ideas I followed her into the packet, which, in a few hours, landed us safe at Calais ; but as I had been, almost the whole time, dying with sea-sickness, I was scarcely sensible, when carried on shore to Dessen’s hotel, and put to bed. After a few hours sleep, I awoke much recovered ; when, having taken some refreshment, my guardian informed me, she only waited to take me to a convent, the intended place of my future residence. My soul shuddered at the hated name ; but I determined no more to complain, therefore said, I attended her pleasure.

“ But when the black and high walls, frowning turrets, and massy gates, appeared in view—when the last creaked on their hinges to receive us, and heavily closed on our entrance—shocked at the death-like stillness, and sombre appearance, that ever
c 4 prevails

prevails in those living tombs, my assumed courage forsook me, and the effort I had made to repress my feelings, occasioned me to faint in the arms of the abbess, as she entered the parlour to meet us. How long I was deprived of sense, I know not; for when restored to life and a recollection of my forlorn condition, by the attentions of the sisterhood, I found my companion was gone, who gladly availed herself of my deprivation of reason to leave me, to avoid any further importunities.

“ I was immediately put to bed, where I was confined several days by a fever, the consequence of the mental and bodily fatigue I had experienced. Youth, and the kindness of the good sisters, restored me to health, and to some degree of composure : as soon as I was able to leave my chamber, I was introduced to the other boarders, who were numerous, and of different nations. In their society, my natural vivacity returned; mine was not the age to dwell long
on

on the miseries attendant upon human nature.

“ I am fearful, Sir, even your politeness, great as I have experienced it to be, will hardly bear you through this uninteresting account of the *little Ellinor*, even from her girlish days.”

Howard assured her, that her artless and well-told tale, had awakened all the finer feelings of his soul, and made an interest in his heart for the lovely reciter, time would never have the power to erase: he entreated that she would continue her narrative, saying, that he could listen to her charming accents,

“ From morn till noon,

“ From noon till dewy eve,—a summer’s day.”

The coach now arrived at Rochester, and the waiter informed them that dinner was just ready to be served. We will now leave the fair *Ellinor*, and the enraptured Howard, to partake of it, and finish this chapter.

CHAP. IV.

AFTER our travellers had made a hasty dinner, at which Howard had swallowed larger potations of love, than wine; and made a more delicious repast on the glances that fell from the bright eyes of Ellinor, than on the tough fowls, rancid bacon, and yellow greens; that furnished their repast, they re-took their places in the coach, where, at the earnest request of her companion, our heroine proceeded with her story.

“There is such an eternal sameness in the manner of life led in a convent, that the journal of a single day will serve for a year.

The

The first thing in the morning is to attend prayers ; then we breakfast ; afterwards go to the school-room till noon, when we are indulged with a walk in the garden ; after dinner renew our studies, and finish the day as we began it, by going to chapel.

“ In this dull routine, with little or no variation, rolls on our time ; not that you are to suppose, that within these sacred repositories of the living dead, “ meek eyed peace, cheerful religion, and all the charities inhabit ;” no—in convents, the black fiends that infest the world have equal dominion ; envy, malice, and uncharitableness, dwell in their hearts, and guide their actions.— They carry with them into the haunts of religion, those baleful passions ; to which is superadded hypocrisy : nor can this raise our wonder ; very few ever took the vows voluntarily ; some are compelled by dire necessity to become nuns, and quit a world, whose vanities they still sigh after : others, by the cruelty of parents, are torn from all

the joys of society, to enrich the elder branches of their family, and enable them, by their sacrifice, to enjoy pleasures, from which they are for ever precluded. If Dr. Johnson's assertion is true, that "envy is a passion implanted in the human breast," a convent is most certainly the place to call it into action.

"Excuse, Sir, this digression, for my utter abhorrence of those seminaries of seclusion, superstition, and persecution, led me to make it. My heart, naturally susceptible of friendship, ever seeking its counterpart, soon found itself warmly impelled towards a very charming girl, a pensioner, some few years older than myself. She was of an ancient and honorable family in the kingdom of Ireland; for she used to tell me that her progenitors were *kings*; her father was a Sir Dennis O'Neil. She attached herself to me from my first arrival, and was my chosen *confidante*: in her friendly bosom I reposed all my little sorrows, and received
the

the most affectionate commiseration. Time imperceptibly wore away, in her society :— she frequently visited several English families in the town, friends of her parents.— She wished much to have taken me with her ; but this was peremptorily refused by the Lady Abbess : who said her orders were positive, that I should not pass the gates : entreaties would have been derogatory to my feelings ; I therefore never condescended to make them.

“ My highest gratification in this seclusion, arose from the well-chosen books, both English and French, that I was enabled to read, through the friendship of my young *chère amie*, as she was amply supplied from the libraries of those she visited. We studied and commented on them together : her natural understanding was good ; and, having seen something of the customs of the world, before she entered the Convent, I was much indebted to her remarks and instructions, for the edification I received from reading.

reading. I had now been three years in this seminary: Miss O'Neil was to leave it in another twelvemonth, her education being completed. I looked forward to that time with the most pungent sorrow, convinced that all my pleasures would cease when I lost her society.

“ I had not heard from, nor seen my guardian, since she so cruelly left me in a fainting fit. I one day ventured to enquire of the Lady Abbess, if she knew how long I was to remain in the Convent? Her answer transfixed, indeed almost annihilated me: ‘ It is the wish and intention of your friends, that you should take the *veil*; and, as I am informed that you are an orphan, only maintained on charity, what, my dear child, can you do better than dedicate yourself to your God, and, in the affectionate bosom of our society, partake of that peace the world cannot give? where you will find nothing but temptation, sin and sorrow, for a lovely, young, and unprotected female.’

“ When

“ When my astonishment, at hearing what I was so unprepared for, permitted me the power of speech, I replied, that I felt no call to a religious seclusion, and an insuperable bar to it was my faith ; I was a Protestant from principle ; therefore I would not change my religion ; nor should either force or entreaties prevail upon me to act against the dictates of my conscience ; that, as a British subject, the laws of France had no power to enforce my obedience ; I knew the worst consequences that could arise from my refusal, were the being deserted by my present supporters, and obliged to maintain myself ; the talents I had cultivated, since I had been in her house, I flattered myself would render me capable of doing so ; and the very great pleasure I should receive from being enabled to obtain a subsistence by my own efforts, would be an ample compensation for the most laborious, mental, or *even* bodily labour.

“ She

“ She heard me with the greatest *sang froid*, saying, ‘ Go, go, my poor child ; you may save yourself the trouble of avowing what you will not do, till called upon to act, by those who have a right to dispose of you. I have but to observe, that your designation is fixed ; opposition is useless ; you may vex your friends, but can make no change in your situation. I advise you, as a proof of your superiour understanding, to submit with a good grace to a fate that is inevitable.’— She then left me, and I flew to unbosom myself of this unlooked-for misfortune, to Clara O’Neil : she mingled her tears with mine, and wished most ardently, that when she returned she could take me with her to dear little Ireland, and offer me an asylum with her family, from my oppressors ; said, that she had a presentiment that we should yet pass many happy days together ; encouraged me in firmly persevering to refuse taking the veil ; assuring me, that in a Convent, where there were so many English pensioners, and to whom constantly resorted
so

so many visitors of that nation, it would be impossible to force me into such a measure; nor indeed was it probable that they intended compulsion, but only meant to intimidate me into a compliance.

“ This advice I resolved implicitly to follow, and make them yield to my determined resolution. The ice being broke, the Abbess sent her Father Confessor to commune with me; but I would never allow myself to listen to his exhortations on the subject, shunning controversy, by constantly assuring him, that I was determined to adhere strictly to the Protestant religion, and never voluntarily seclude myself from a world that I felt a much more fervent call to *enter*, than to *quit*. In this manner passed another year; they constantly urging me to become a *bonne Catholique*, and I firmly rejecting all their proposals.

“ At this period my beloved friend left the Convent, to return to her parents.—

When

When I received her parting embrace, I seemed to be severed from all that loved, or cared about me. Oh ! what an atom in the creation did I then think myself ! how heavily now passed my melancholy hours ! Convinced that idleness was the nurse of sorrow, my exertions to improve my mental powers were unremitted, having ever in view, that the time *must* arrive, when it would be necessary to call forth my talents for my support. Four years had now elapsed, when one morning I was summoned to the grate ; I was surprised for the first time since my residence in the Convent, with a visit from my guardian ; to my expressions of civility and enquiries after her health, she returned a cold inclination of her head, but eyed me with a most scrutinizing curiosity. She seemed struck at my appearance, for I was considerably grown, and she hardly recognized in Mademoiselle Harcourt, the little Ellinor that she left in the same spot, a few years since, without feeling one pang of remorse.

“ But

“ But, to convince me that *her* character was not changed, she entered abruptly on her mission, demanding to be informed from myself, if the assurances of the Lady Abbess were true, that I had positively refused to take the veil. I confirmed what she had been told, avowing that I felt the most invincible repugnance to a monastery; I was unconscious of any call to the vocation, which could be the only motive for a life of religious seclusion. To me it appeared the height of impiety, to offer up the body to God, when the heart and soul were fighting for the world: that, feeling this sentiment so strongly, I could not consent to offend my maker, by presenting to him such an improper sacrifice.

“ She sneeringly congratulated me upon my improvement in declamation; assured me, that I should repent my temerity; that she was only an agent in my concerns; that those for whom she acted were determined to support me no longer, unless I took the
VOWS.

vows. In that case there would be a handsome present made to the Convent ; that I should have another year allowed me to determine ; at the expiration of which time I must make my election, which would be decisive of my future fate. If I then stubbornly persisted to oppose those who had a right to expect my obedience, I should be abandoned to my fate, and must in future provide for my own support.

“ Throwing myself at the feet of this inexorable woman, I washed them with a flood of tears, as I exclaimed, ‘ Oh ! take me to those, to whom you say I owe duty ; only let me behold—be once acknowledged and embraced by the authors of my existence, and they shall dispose of their unfortunate child as they please. Let them assure me, that the burying myself in the everlasting gloom of this hated place, will take a single pain from, or add one pleasure to, their hearts, I will comply without a murmur.’ ”

“ You

“ You have promised obedience, upon terms impossible to be granted ; you have heard my message: it is not in my power to soften or alter it. If, blind to your own interest, and deluded by false hopes, you persist in your present determination, you will hear from me at the time I have appointed.’—She then left me abruptly, notwithstanding every effort I made to detain her, or work upon her feelings.

CHAP. V.

“ I WILL not tax your patience longer than necessary, with recounting the various persecutions I endured from the Lady Abbess, her Confessor, and the pious sisters.— The necessity of my becoming a member of their community, was sometimes enforced with threats; at others I was assailed by blandishments; but I was proof against all their devices, declining religious disputation, in which they endeavoured to entangle me for I knew my powers were not equal to contend with such subtle reasoners; I therefore uniformly gave a positive negative.— Thus disagreeably situated, I passed the allotted

lotted period for my residence in the Convent, which elapsed about a fortnight since.

“ At this time I received a letter without date or signature, informing me, that as my friends had been acquainted by the Lady Abbess, that I still opposed my own interest, and their inclinations, they had ordered my pension to be paid up to that time; that a merchant of Calais would take me to his house, and present me with fifty guineas, the *last* sum I must ever expect to receive from them.— He would see me on board the packet, and inform me in what manner I was to conduct myself to get to London; that he was to furnish me with a direction to a gentleman in that capital, at whose house I was expected, and where I should be received as a companion to his daughter, and treated well, if my conduct did not forfeit the character that had been given me: that, if I endeavoured to develope the mysteries by which I was environed, it would still further exasperate my friends against me, more than

my late conduct had done ; advised me to act warily, as there would be spies upon all my actions ; it was now in my own power to be the carver of my future fortune. I was supposed by the family, with whom I was going to reside, to be the orphan of an officer of some rank, who, with my mother that had accompanied him, died in America. For my own sake, I should perceive the necessity of adopting this deception, as it would be much more to my advantage, to have it supposed that my parents were dead, than that they yet existed, and I not acknowledged by them. To the truth of this remark my heart assented.

“ I ever detested the meanness of falsehood, convinced that, to support one untruth, twenty must be told ; but hard necessity compelled my consent to act with duplicity. I was soon visited by the merchant, who having settled all money concerns with the Lady Abbess, took me with him, after my having been a pensioner, in
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the convent five years, the *gates* of which I had never passed in all that time. The young ladies, my companions, took an affectionate leave of me: the superior and sisterhood, a coolly civil one. In the joy of a release from persecution, and once more being permitted to breathe the air of freedom, I felt my spirits exhilarated; buoyant hope, at the prospect of mixing with that world I so eagerly desired to see, made me forget, for a time, the desertion of those who had hitherto supported me; and with the vivacity natural to my age, I supposed any situation must be charming, compared with the dull uniformity and stupid monotony, in which I had dozed away the latter years of my life. This ebullition of joy lasted but a few days, which I passed in the merchant's family, he soon consigned me, like a bale of goods, to the captain of a packet, who, on his part, undertook, on our arrival at Dover, to take me a place in the stage for London.

“ It was now, when tossing on the troubled ocean, as I viewed its foaming waves breaking against the sides of the vessel, that my prophetic mind represented it to me as an emblem of the storms of fortune that would dash over, perhaps overwhelm, the unfortunate Ellinor. Of this sombre idea I have not been able to divest myself; and when I took my place in the carriage, and had turned from all I knew in the world, to meet those I never have seen, to introduce myself to strangers, who might treat me with neglect and insult, all my assumed courage forsook me; my agitated spirits relieved themselves by those tears which claimed your pity.

“ Then it was, when from you, a stranger, I heard the soft voice of commiseration and friendship; it called forth my sensibility, and claimed my gratitude. You requested to hear my story: I have simply recounted it, and thank you for your patient attention to what must be uninteresting to all but the unfortunate reciter. You will perceive that my situation cannot be changed; it has been
procured

procured for me by those who claim my obedience, and I will exert myself to the utmost to gain the approbation of my patrons, by calling forth those few talents I have had an opportunity of cultivating."

Howard repeatedly thanked her for the confidence she had honoured him with ; it should in his breast be held as a sacred deposit ; and solicited her to add one more obligation to those she had already conferred, by informing him of the name of the gentleman in whose family she was going to be an inmate, as he could not endure the idea of their acquaintance ceasing with the present hour. Ellinor replied to this request, that to reward his soothing commiseration for an unfortunate woman, she had related her tale ; that now, when the deed was irretrievable, she saw, for the first time, that it was very imprudent ; therefore it would be surely adding to the folly she had already committed, if she mentioned the place of her future residence. Howard said every
D 2 thing

thing a man of honour and feeling could, to re-assure, and to convince her, that he was incapable of taking any improper advantage of the situation that she had done him the honour to make him acquainted with. On his re-urging his suit, she replied : “ Mr. Howard, I will trust to your asseverations of secrecy. It is to a Sir James Lavington, who resides in Grosvenor-street, that has an only daughter, with whom I am going to live as a companion.”

He said, he had heard a very good character of Sir James, but did not visit him ; but he had an acquaintance, that was *one* of those men who knew every body, and was *let in* every where ; to him he should apply for an introduction ; in the mean time intreated she would allow him the honour of seeing her safe to her destined residence. A stranger as she was to London, she gratefully accepted his offer. There they soon arrived ; and after having seen her baggage safely deposited in a hackney coach, he handed her in, and
ordered

dered it to Grosvenor - street. — Howard thought the foundered hackneys flew with their fair charge, when he found himself at the door of Sir James Lavington; he ordered the coachman not to knock till he had let him out—when, bidding Ellinor a tender adieu, he wished her all the happiness he was convinced she deserved, respectfully kissing her hand, on which, as he quitted it, he breathed a soft sigh,—the step being let down, he was out of sight in a moment.

CHAP. VI.

HAVING left Ellinor in safety, we will accompany Howard to Cavendish square,—where, after seeing the door close on her, who was now all the world to him, he bent his steps : his heart was left with his fair companion in Grosvenor street ; how he should get introduced to the family of Sir James Lavington, employed his thoughts. The honourable Edward Campley was the person on whom he depended, and that he alluded to, when he told Ellinor that he flattered himself with the happiness of seeing her again. These gentlemen were nearly of an age,—had been school-fellows at Eton,—chums at college, and still kept up their acquaintance ; but that friendship and mutual

mutual confidence, that arises from a similarity of dispositions and pursuits, could not exist between two persons whose ideas were so diametrically opposite, as to the principles by which the actions of mankind are governed: Campley asserting, that *self* should ever be the first consideration with a wise man; that all our actions, as their ultimate end and aim, should become subservient to that prevailing principle of our *nature*. Howard, feeling universal philanthropy, never thinking of his own pleasures or gratifications, while he could contribute to the happiness of others; as his heart was open to all the charities, so was his purse to relieve the wants of the sons and daughters of affliction.

As the best characters are the most liable to be deceived by the artful and designing, for the heart that knows no guile, fears it not; he has ever been the dupe of specious tales, that have called forth his sensibility, hurt his fortune, and injured his character

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with

with the more prudent and wary; by releasing from prisons men without honour, and women without virtue, who imposed upon his easy nature by false representations, thus robbing the *true* objects of charity, of what should have been bestowed on them.

The real child of sorrow, whose misfortunes arise from unavoidable circumstances, is ever unobtrusive, retiring, modest, hiding from human ken the cares by which he is environed; but if a complaint is murmured, a sigh escapes the care-worn bosom of the mourner, it is *lost* in the clamorous demands of the *bold beggar*, whose vice and extravagance have brought him to want, being too proud to allow himself to be so,—he compounds between his necessity and his feelings, by condescending to *borrow*, tho' conscious, at the time, that he has neither means nor inclination to repay. Thus by following an *ignus fatuus*, that has ever deceived him, one of the best hearts in the world has been misled, and his patrimony
wasted,

wasted, by assisting ambitious extravagance, while he flattered himself he was supporting indigent merit.

Mr. Howard lost his parents at an early age, before he had sufficient discretion to guide himself. With a susceptible heart, a warm imagination, and a fund of good nature, as soon as he was emancipated from College, he entered with spirit into the various pleasures of this great emporium of folly, the metropolis, in whose giddy whirl so many worthy men have sunk to rise no more. How he conducted himself has been already shewn.—His father was a younger brother, whose fortune, added to his mother's, was, at their death, about fifteen thousand pounds; of that sum he became possessed at twenty one: he was, when he first saw our heroine, verging towards thirty; he had often been on the point of marriage, but now found his former attachments "were only jests,—he never loved before."

He had great expectations from his uncle, who was his father's elder brother, a hale batchelor of near seventy, at whose death the family estate must devolve to him. This gentleman protested, that he would bequeath all his large funded property, to raise churches and endow hospitals, if his nephew did not turn from the evil of his ways, and cease to bestow his money upon fools and knaves, who only laughed at his easy credulity.

He had for some time past been teasing Howard to look out for a wife with a large fortune, that it might supply the deficiencies his misplaced generosity had occasioned in his own; vowing that he would sooner forgive him, for lavishing money on his own pleasures, than for devoting it to the gratification of his acquaintance: that he was unalterably determined, if his nephew married some pretty sentimental beggar, which, with his romantic notions, was very likely to happen, he should not have a shilling of his property, not would he ever see him again.

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Although he loved his nephew better than any thing in this world, except his money, and his own opinions, there was little doubt but he would keep his word, should he ever presume to chuse a wife without *his* approbation.

At the period this history commences, a merchant, who was esteemed a *good man*, on the other side Temple Bar, had induced the elder Mr. Howard to lend him a large sum of money, just, as it was afterwards proved, that he was on the eve of bankruptcy: with this sum, added to the property of many others, he had escaped to France, whither he had sent his nephew in pursuit of him, to try if he could be prevailed upon to refund any part of the property; but he was not to be found after the most diligent search, and was said, with all his dishonest gleanings, to have embarked for the self-emancipated Colonies. Howard was returning to his uncle with this unwelcome intelligence, when chance conducted him to the coach destined to convey the fair Ellinor, and his hitherto untouched

heart allowed itself to be bound in her filken fetters.

The impresson the beauty, innocence, and affecting story of his lovely companion, made on so susceptible a heart as we have described Howard to possess, must be obvious. Had he been master of fifty thousand pounds, he would at once have laid that and himself at her feet; but when reflection told him, he could not offer her marriage in his present deranged circumstances, it was then he regretted the improvident thoughtlessness, that had squandered sums on the unworthy, without being essentially serviceable to them, that, had he now possessed, would have enabled him to present his hand to the woman of his choice.

He was convinced that his uncle would never give his consent to such an alliance; pride and avarice, were two powerful opponents, that would effectually prevent his yielding, that the heir of his possessions should

should marry a girl, not only destitute of fortune, but of dubious birth and connections. *Self love* prevented Howard from supposing that any obstacle to their union would proceed from the lady; but in the pleasing labyrinths of this new passion, he forgot that he was rather what the world calls a *plain man*, bordering upon thirty, with a broken fortune; that the goddess of his idolatry, was seventeen, sensible as Minerva, beautiful as Venus, and graceful as Juno, who might at some future period be acknowledged by parents, that would add riches and consequence, to those gifts with which by Nature she had been so liberally endowed.

But there were a thousand good and generous actions of Howard that preponderated in the scale, against the want of youth and beauty, which are of much less consequence to add to matrimonial happiness, than the younger part of our readers may suppose. Neither of these fascinating qualities

lities contribute one *iota* to connubial felicity, after the honey moon.

Various ideas had passed rapidly in his imagination, while he waited the return of his uncle, who had dined abroad, and whose absence he did not regret, being convinced the intelligence he had to communicate, that the recovery of his money was a *forlorn hope*, would add poignancy to the natural acidity of his temper; and the experience of former times assured him, that the unfortunate bearer of bad tidings, would have no small portion of ill humour to encounter.

Determined at all events to visit Sir James Lavington, that he might not only be occasionally gratified by the sight of Ellinor, but be informed whether her situation in that gentleman's family was eligible; that, if it proved otherwise, he might exert himself to serve her as a friend, though his circumstances forbid the avowing himself her lover; a title he wished not to assume, till he could
offer

offer with his hand, a fortune worthy her acceptance. It would, undoubtedly, in the state of his present embarrassed finances, have been more prudent to avoid, instead of courting her society ; but when was a man of his temperature madly in love for the *first* time, known to take reason for his guide ? he therefore gave the reins to his inclination, which persuaded him, the most proper conduct he could pursue, was to take his breakfast the next morning with the honourable Edward Campley, and seek, through his influence, an admission to the family in Grosvenor-street.

He had just settled his plan of operations, when he heard his uncle's carriage drive up to the door ; who, before he seated himself in the chair, his nephew presented to him, or replied to his enquiries after his health, eagerly demanded what intelligence he had brought him concerning the merchant and the *cash*. To gain the *latter*, Howard had been sent by him on this Quixotte-like expedition

pedition to France: but when informed that, in all probability, both the *man* and the *money* were by this time in America, that land where heaven-born liberty holds her court, unfurls her banners, and courts to join her standard the sons and daughters of freedom from the remotest regions of the torrid and frigid zones! the old gentleman became outrageous; Howard patiently abided the storm, which, exhausting itself by its own force, was succeeded by a sulky calm. Of this interregnum he availed himself, pleading fatigue and want of rest; expressed his sorrow that he had been so unlucky a negociator; recommended philosophical endurance to his uncle, wished him good night and returned to his own lodgings.

CHAP. VII.

WHEN Howard arrived in Pall-Mall, Mrs. Needham came to pay her respects, and welcome him back to London, hoping that he was as well as she, and all who had experienced his goodness, even wished him to be. Having thanked her for those friendly inquiries, he, smiling, said, he perceived she had not forgot to over-rate his merits, and to stop her honest circumlocution, desired to be informed if his servant was at home, as he wished to retire for the night. The good old lady insisted, that he should permit her to send him some whey, after he was in bed, as he appeared to be much fatigued. To this he thankfully assented: she retired to make it, saying,
Mr.

Mr. Frank would attend him directly, for he was only in the parlour, playing a rubber at whist: laughing, he requested that Frank might not be disturbed, till that momentous business was decided. He now threw himself on a settee in the drawing-room, where the valet soon made his bow.—

This smart gentleman had been left behind when his master went to Paris, who thought he could well dispense with his attendance, during the short time he meant to be absent; and, for he not understanding the French language, would have been a useless incumbrance.

Howard undressed directly, telling his servant that he might return to the parlour, and have time for another rubber; bidding him send Nanny with the whey, which having drank, to oblige his kind landlady, we will leave him to those peaceful slumbers, that hover round the good man's pillow, and return to the party below, that was composed of Mrs. Needham, with whom

Howard

Howard had lodged five years, her brother, his wife, and a very pretty girl, their daughter, on whom Mr. Frank, a smart *idle* gentleman, out of livery, had condescended to cast the eyes of affection.

Supper over, and the cloth removed, Mrs. Needham took her glass of punch, and addressing Frank, said, "Come, Sir, I'll give you the *best* man I know, and that's your worthy master!"

"Yes, indeed, ma'am, he is very good; none but God and himself can tell how good, for all the generous actions he performs are kept so secret, that those who are relieved by his bounty know not from whence it comes, for he cannot bear to be thanked for what he does: Now I think this is being good *overmuch*—I acknowledge, I like, when *I* confer a *favour*, for people to shew their gratitude; it is the least they can do for their benefaction. But I know not how it happens, my master is of quite a
different

different opinion, and lets not his right hand know what his left does.

“ He has desired me to awake him to-morrow morning, at eight o’clock: What inducement he can have to wish *me* to rise at such a plebeian hour, I know not, unless it is to give me one of my usual dances, down into cellars, or up into garrets, to hunt out miserable objects of distress, and be what he calls his almoner. I wish he would send the groom, or any other person, for I am not very fond of what the poet calls, “ the luxury of woe.”

“ I am ashamed to hear you say so, Mr. Frank,” said the pretty Polly Needham, “ I thought you were *fond* of relieving distress.”

“ O yes, most certainly, but I do not like to *see* it.”

“ Come, pray tell us some of the scenes you have witnessed, that you say were so dismal, for I love ten times better to cry, than to laugh; I would not give a farthing

to read a novel that does not make me miserable."

"If that's your taste, child," replied her aunt, "you may have it fully gratified, for there is a sufficiency of that sort of dismal writing, to render you completely unhappy to the very last moment of your existence. For my part, I commiserate *real* misfortunes, and those who relieve *them* claim my admiration; it will, therefore, give me great pleasure, if Mr. Frank would oblige us with the story of some of those persons Mr. Howard's bounty has succoured, and restored to happiness."

Thus pressed, Frank began. "About three years since, my master rung me up one morning at six o'clock, apologized for disturbing me so early, but said, it was a case of urgent necessity, for he did not come home till one, when he found a letter from a Lieutenant Worth, who entreated him to afford some relief, to his wife, himself, and six children, who had been turned, by their landlady,

landlady, into the street; that they had no sustenance for the last twenty-four hours. He refers me to people of credit, for the truth of this affecting story; but if their situation is really so desperate as he describes it, I think that assistance should *precede* the inquiry: I know the generality of the world are of a different opinion, and laugh at me for having been so often the dupe of deception—but I feel it is better that I should be imposed on half a dozen times, by the artful, designing knave, than *one* worthy object should perish through my doubtful delay. Therefore, my good fellow, make all possible haste, lose not the consideration that you go to save a family from starving; take them these five guineas, and according to the report you make on your return, I shall be enabled to form an opinion if they merit my further assistance.”

“ After a great deal of trouble, I found them out, in a little Court in Westminster, the miserable tenants of a poor woman's
green

green cellar, whose charity had induced her to afford them shelter from the inclemency of the weather; assigning, as a reason, that being very wretched herself, she knew how to pity them. There they were, the Lieutenant shaking in an ague fit, his wife in a burning fever, laying upon a bundle of straw for a bed, covered with an old rug, an infant hanging at her breast, crying because it could drain no sustenance from thence—the eldest boy, a fine little fellow, had taken off his jacket, to put over his father's shoulders, saying, 'it will warm you, papa, and I don't mind the cold at all, but I cannot bear to see you shake so.' The sister, a pretty delicate girl, was on her knees, blowing with her mouth, a few embers, to heat for the infant some milk, just procured it by their charitable hosts.

The other three children were huddled together, in a corner of this wretched apartment, making a hearty meal on a bundle of turnips, that had been given to keep them

them quiet. When I had dived down into this subterranean abode, and delivered my credentials, I thought I should have been overwhelmed with their thanks and careffes. The Lieutenant threw himself on his knees, and offered up thanks to God for this very seasonable relief, imploring that choicest blessings might be showered down on the head of my master, whom he called the Saviour of his dear Fanny, and his starving little ones. When the children were told, they should soon have breakfast, that gentleman having brought them some, they all clung about my knees, like so many leeches, and a little boy, they called Charles, on hearing these glad tidings, flung away his turnip, saying, the rabbits may have that now, for God Almighty has sent us bread and butter again.

“As soon as I could escape from their thanks and careffes, I made the best of my way to my master, to recount my morning’s adventures; the big tears rolled down his cheeks

cheeks, when I related the scene I had just witnessed. He said, he would go himself in the evening, to hear the cause that had brought them into this great distress, that he might give them more effectual assistance, if he found their merits equal to their necessities."

Mrs. Needham, whose heart glowed with enthusiasm, as she heard the merits of her favourite Mr. Howard developed, vowed he was the best creature in the world; and said, "she must thrive as long as such an angel inhabited her house; he was so charitable, kind, and benevolent, that, in her humble opinion, his namesake, about whom such a fuss was made, never did half the good by running about to cure the plague in foreign countries, as her dear Mr. Henry Howard had done, by relieving the victims of oppression, poverty, and sickness in his *own*. For, after all, Mr. Frank, 'Charity should begin at home.'"

“ Dear me, aunt, you interrupt the story ; pray, Mr. Frank, tell us more about the poor lieutenant and his family.”

“ Why, my fair Patty, it is a long history ; I wonder you are not tired, but I’ll shorten it as much as I can. That very evening my master went to the cabbage cellar, and had them all removed to decent lodgings—nor did he forget to reward its charitable owner for her hospitality. He sent his own apothecary to the lieutenant’s family, by whose attentions they were soon restored to health.

“ My master, in answer to the enquiries he made concerning the poor lieutenant, was informed, that he was a man of honour and rectitude, and a sufferer from the depravity of others ; that he had been brought to a court martial, and compelled to go upon half-pay, through the vindictive persecution of his captain, a sucking lordling, that scarcely knew the stem from the stern of a ship, who had been embarrassed with very
few

few nautical questions on his examination, because he was the *son* of an earl. He had immediately a commission given him, and was sent to command men of experienced knowledge in their profession, whose heads were become as *white* as his scented handkerchief.

“ Mrs. Worth was young, and beautiful; my lord wished to *throw* that said handkerchief at her; but she was also virtuous, though poor, and assured him that it was her unalterable determination to remain so. This was too unnatural a coalition for him to suppose tenable against such powerful opponents as this title, person, and purse: notwithstanding this confidence, his vanity was doomed to the mortification of experiencing the inefficacy of all three, which were set at defiance by the old-fashioned notions of this lady.

“ Determined to revenge the insult his lordship conceived she had offered to his

rank and dignity, in persisting to prefer a mere sea brute, who knew nothing more than to reef a sail, steer a ship, or be one of the first men to board an enemy, and valorously haul down his colours: but were these qualifications of sufficient weight to induce a pretty woman to give a preference to such a tramontane, to the young and elegant Lord Fluttergale? who was so extremely delicate that it cost half his pay to purchase otto of roses, to overpower the horrid smells of tar and gunpowder.

This essenced commander was so nervous, that, when obliged to salute his admiral, the sound of great guns were so discordant to his refined feelings, that his ears were stuffed with cotton, and his cabin windows buffed with Eiderdown cushions, to break sounds which ever made him *tremble*. The noble earl, his father, for these weighty reasons, ever made it a point with the Minister, that he was to be constantly employed in the *channel service*; this requisition must be complied

plied with, on pain of his carrying over his interest to the minority. Lord Fluttergale could even dispense with *that*, his first wish, and constant toast, being, "safe in port."

"One memorable day, determined to boldly storm, where he could not sap, Lord Fluttergale sent his lieutenant on shore to execute a commission, that he supposed must detain him till evening; "hot with the Tuscan grape, and high in blood," he availed himself of this favourable opportunity to once more offer his devoirs to Mrs. Worth, who partook her husband's cabin when the ship was in harbour.

"Upon finding his amorous entreaties fruitless, and that she was still inexorable to all his golden promises, he had recourse to brutal force; to prevent her making any noise, he attempted to stop her mouth with his handkerchief; but his strength not being equal to his wishes, he could not prevent her uttering a piercing shriek; the cabin
E 3 door,

door, that he had contrived to fasten when he entered, with a violent blow was burst open, and the enraged husband stood before him. When he had lifted in his arms the fainting Fanny, who had dropped on the floor at his entrance, he took down his pistols, told his lordship that he was a villain, insisted on his going directly on shore, and giving him immediate satisfaction, for the greatest injury, that could be offered to a man of honour and a gentleman. But the worthless being, that had dared to meditate a crime of so heinous a nature, had not sufficient spirit to meet the man he had attempted to injure.

“He therefore left the cabin, muttering that he would take his own time, and chuse his own weapons. The exasperated lieutenant, thrown off his guard by this cowardice, and smarting with his wrongs, was rash enough to strike his commanding officer, on which this representative of nobility, called out “Murder!” accused Worth of mutiny, and immediately ordered him to be put into close confinement.

“He

“ He soon was brought to a court martial; and, as captain's try lieutenant., he was found guilty of improper behaviour to his superiour officer, and, as a great act of *lenity*, after having been severely reprimanded, he was *only* put upon *half pay*.

“ Lord Fluttergale's attempt on his wife's virtue being unsupported by any evidence, the husband's defence was consequently over-ruled, though the fact was not doubted even by the members who condemned him. At the earnest entreaties of Mrs. Worth, he gave up the idea of challenging his late redoubtable commander; indeed it would have been a fruitless attempt, as fighting was not his *forte*. Soon after this fatal termination to all his future prospects of preferment in the profession he loved, and to which he was an *honour*, he retired to a small house in Lambeth. From this æra his ill-fated and suffering family may date all their misfortunes—children increasing,
his

his patrimony waſting, and debts accumulating.

“ Some weeks previous to his introduction to my maſter, his children were ſeized with the meaſles, which was followed by the whooping cough; he became a victim of an inveterate ague, by aſſiſting his wife in nurſing them. In arrears with his agent before, the diſtreſſes of theſe poor ſufferers compelled them to diſpoſe of every thing, except the clothes on their backs, to keep them from actual ſtarving, before they could prevail on themſelves to make their ſhocking ſituation known. As the finiſhing ſtroke to their miſery, their hard-hearted landlady ſeized upon their few articles of furniture, and turned them into the ſtreet.

“ In this exigence, they recollected the poor ſeller of turnips, who had once lived with them in the capacity of a ſervant, but being left a widow, with two children to maintain, could only receive them into her
miferable

miserable hovel. In this moment of dire distress, the lieutenant remembered having heard of the charitable goodness of my master, from a friend that had been relieved by him. He therefore determined to write to him, explain his case, and solicit his assistance. I have informed you of the result of this application.

“ Mr. Howard found, upon the strictest enquiry, that the lieutenant was not only a skilful seaman, but a man of unimpeached rectitude; he therefore told the story to his uncle, and prevailed on him to recommend him to one of his particular friends, a Russia merchant, who appointed him to the command of a ship in that trade; to its owners he has given the greatest satisfaction. In this situation he has now been for three years, and I dare say will soon be a richer man than his benefactor.

“ I omitted telling you, in the proper place, that my master advanced a sum of money to fit him out for his first voyage,

paid all the arrears due to his agent, that Mrs. Worth might receive, in her husband's absence, his half pay clear of any deduction. She retired with her children, all but the eldest, who went with his father, to a small village near town, where Mr. Howard used frequently to send me with presents for the little ones, but never called upon them himself, that the world might not have the power to put a *wrong* construction on his conduct towards this family, thus preserved from destruction by his active and unremitting kindness."

The whole party joined in praising the benevolence of Mr. Howard, and thanking Frank for his story, which Miss Patty said, was vastly like some she had read in novels, and she thought was just as well told; her admirer smiled his grateful thanks; but he would have been robbed of his character as a reciter had he allowed, that his manner of telling the tale was acquired by hearing his master relate it to a particular friend one morning while he was dressing his hair.

CHAP. VIII.

AFTER a very restless night, during which Howard pondered over the occurrences of the past day; at the approach of dawn, he dropped asleep, when the bright form of Ellinor, as his guardian sylph, hovered round his pillow, and soothed his fancy with scenes of future happiness. He was disturbed from those illusive joys, by the abrupt entrance of Mr. Frank, in consequence of the orders he had received the preceding evening. He immediately rose, and prepared for his intended visit to the Honourable Colonel Campley, whom he found lounging upon his breakfast table, in a toothpick attitude, at his lodgings in St. James's

street, his sofa strewed with letters of appointment, and cards of invitation, from gambling dowagers, intriguing wives, and misses of the *haut ton*. On his valet's announcing Mr. Howard, he exclaimed, shaking him by the hand, "I did not know you were returned from Paris, Harry! but I take this visit kindly, though you will find me as cross as an antiquated virgin, who cannot get a partner at a ball, and as stupid as a citizen at Lady Dashall's rout!"

"And why all this, Edward?—Is your brother married, and his lady going to produce an heir?"

"Oh! no, not quite so bad as that neither; but this then is the cause of my chagrin: I was at Mrs. Setalls' party last night, and was *done* out of a cool two hundred guineas; there were assembled the whole Host of *Pero*, from the Duchess of Match'em to the Countess of Grampus. I should not forget the Miss Setalls, who act the part of jackalls to their lionsess of a mother, for they talk a man out of his senses, and he goes on cocking his

his card, and doubling his sums, 'till he knows not the amount."

" Oh! fye Campley, you are too severe; though I have a perfect contempt for the mother, I cannot think this of the daughters."

" Curse me, but its true; for the young gnat buzzed round my ears all last night, and tormented me, past sufferance; saying, she heard I had at last made up my mind, to enter the pale of matrimony, condescending to take a wife in the sound of Bow Bell, and chosen her, like old plate, not by the fashion, but the weight. That she was rejoiced to hear I had made so *sweet* a choice, and had met what I had so long been in search of—a *plumb*.

" Vexed at the stings of this sarcastic *little insect*, I was thrown off my wonted guard, lost my temper, and of course my money. I returned home, most religiously wishing, the Red Sea would once again overwhelm the whole Host of Pha-

raoh—nor should I have been sorry, if no exemption had been made in *favour* of the Sons of Israel, as I have been equally *plucked* by both parties.”

“Now, Campley, having given vent to your boiling rage, I hope you will have a *lucid* interval, of which I must avail myself to open the business that brought me this morning to partake of your *dejeuné*—Knowing as I do that the doors of the grave, as well as the gay, are ever open to receive you, I request to be informed if you are a visitor at Sir James Lavington’s? as through your introduction, I wish to be received on the same footing.”

“In the name of all that’s wonderful, what can induce you to court such society? Oh! I have it—*charity*, the virtue you are said to practise in its utmost extent, prompts you to offer your hand to the little ugly heiress, and thus become a sleeping partner in the house of Lavington. I am rejoiced to find you have at last adopted my notions of the thralldom of matrimony, and if you

are

determined to wear chains, that they shall be well gilded. I commend your prudent resolves, and will do *mon possible* to aid your laudable intentions."

Howard laughed inwardly at the Colonel's mistake, but resolved to avail himself of it, for he began to see, for the first time, the folly of professing a passion for the indigent Ellinor, that would not only ruin his prospects from his uncle, but consequently deprive him of every hope of future success. Though his honest heart disdained the idea of imposing upon Sir James Lavington and his daughter, to answer any sinister purposes of self advantage, he did not think the misleading Campley so very serious a business; who, if he had really been acquainted with the whys and the wherefores, all the world would have been made partakers of the secret before night.

Howard's answer therefore was, "as you approve my system, I suppose I am to reckon on

my obligation to you, for an introduction in Grosvenor-street, and as I am a perfect stranger to the family, I shall be grateful for some account of the individuals of which it is composed."

"That may be done in a very short space of time: Sir James is supposed to be a man of profound learning, *deep* it undoubtedly is, for he is so taciturn, so enveloped in formal reserve, that very few of his acquaintance can fathom it, and fewer still are induced to make the attempt. This is not the age to drag buried treasures into light, excepting the few pans dug from the ruins of Herculaneum, receiving consequence from green mould; a Hercules deriving value from the loss of arms,—or a Venus beauty from the want of a nose.

"Sir James is a good man, a sensible man; has been a man of the world, and would have been an agreeable man, had not, in the early period of his life, all his hopes of promised pleasures been cruelly destroyed

stroyed by the avarice of an unnatural father, who obliged him to sacrifice the best affections of the heart, to his revenge and parsimony. I cannot tell you the whole story; but I know it was a black deed that parted him from the woman of his choice, to join him to his present lady. A most heterogeneous mixture it has proved, 'ill-suited, not matched.' With too high a sense of justice to make the innocent suffer for the guilty, he has ever treated his wife, though forced upon him, with civil respect and silent deference: Love he had not to give, and he scorned to practice duplicity, by assuming the appearance of what he did not feel: he passes the greatest part of his time in his study; seldom visits with, or joins Lady Lavington's parties, giving an unfashionable preference to the dead Lords Bolingbrook, Shaftesbury and Chesterfield, to their *living* representatives.

"Her ladyship's character will be best described by what she is *not*: she is not handsome,

some, nor ever was so: she is neither sensible nor witty, good humoured nor generous, nor even charitable, in *your* acceptance of the word; yet, with all these negatives against her, she has contrived to get through the world, if not with *eclat*, at least with credit, and has acquired the character of a *mighty good sort* of a woman—which ever conveys to me, who meet those non-descripts every where, the idea of the most disagreeable of all beings; for whenever I am introduced into a family, when, as an eulogium, I am informed the mistress of it is of that order of females, I bestow upon the poor devil of a husband all my commiseration, and make my bow to his helpmate, as soon as decency permits.

“Of Miss Lavington I have but little to say: I believe she is about sixteen; has not been introduced to company above a year; of course her character is not yet formed;—I hope, for your sake, my friend, it will not be modelled upon her mamma’s.

She

She is an only child ; the rest having taken themselves off in their infancy, to leave your intended to the quiet possession of 50,000*l.* with large expectancies from maiden aunts, and superannuated uncles ; but as a trifling drawback to these pleasant prospects, she is a little black ugly girl, and has an appearance of ill temper, that I believe she inherits from that *good sort* of woman her mother.

“ And now, dear Howard, having satisfied all your demands, I must take leave to call in Mons. Le Neuf, as I ought to have been dressed an hour since, having an appointment with a fair lady.”

Howard begged his pardon for taking up the time, that could have been so much better employed ; desired he would commence his toilet immediately, and say when he would introduce him in Grosvenor-street.

Campley assured him he would comply with his request upon his return to London ; he

was

was now going a few miles out of town, to stay five or six days. This was a thunderbolt to the enamoured Howard ; to complain was useless, for it was not to be expected, that an engagement with a lady, perhaps made some time, could be postponed at the moment it was going to be fulfilled, to oblige him ; neither would it have been politic to have been too urgent for Campley's compliance with his request, lest more had appeared in the "matter than met the eye ;" he therefore took his leave, thanking him for his information of the Lavington family, and requesting he would inform him when he returned to St. James's street ; which having promised, Howard departed, and thought the nearest way to pay his respect to his uncle in Cavendish-square, would be to go through Grosvenor-street ; there then he bent his pensive steps, and fixed his enquiring eyes on the windows of Sir James Lavington's house, from the attics to the parlour ; but they reflected not the fair form of Ellinor.

CHAP. IX.

WE will return to our heroine, whom we left just going to introduce herself to Lady Lavington. The street door was opened by a smart footman: she enquired if his lady was at home; when, after having measured with his eyes her and the hack, he replied, "No,"—but recollecting himself, he exclaimed, "Oh, I suppose you are the *mad-mo-sell* that Mrs. Bustle, our house-keeper, said was expected, so if you please walk into her room."

She prepared to follow this well-powdered lacquey; who directed the coachman to bring her baggage into the hall, and then led the way to the apartment of this *charge d'affaires*

fares of Lady Lavington, who, without rising from her chair at the entrance of Ellinor, just condescended to return a slight inclination of the head to her curtesy; who not much charmed with her reception, requested to know if she might be permitted to see Miss Lavington, as she had been informed that her ladyship was not at home.

The housekeeper said, that they were both gone out to dinner, and would not return till late in the evening, as they were to go with a party to the play; but that a room was prepared for her reception,—therefore she might sup and retire when she pleased. Ellinor declared she should be happy to avail herself of this offer, being much fatigued with travelling.—“Poor thing! I dares to say you are; George, bring tea and coffee.”

The footman disappeared to make his report in the kitchen; all the servants, both male and female, found some excuse to come into the housekeeper's apartment, to get a peep at
this

this addition to the family, whose situation in it was to resemble the tomb of Mahomet, as being suspended between earth and heaven, and properly belonging to neither.

In just such a doubtful state are placed those unfortunate daughters of poverty, under whatever *title* admitted into the families of the great and opulent; whether as governesses, humble companions, vulgarly called toad-eaters, or poor relations, they are treated with uniform cold neglect by all the domestic establishment, who are very quick-sighted in adopting the manners and opinions of their superiours. By whichever of those appellations a young woman is received into the house of a person of fashion, in respect to them for the obligation of being permitted a seat at the bottom of their table, she cannot associate with the society that hold their festive orgies in the housekeeper's or steward's room; though, by the *provident* care of those respectable personages, it is very frequently the sole place in the mansion, where

where real pleasure and comfort preside :— Here is she generally abused and laughed at, for having formed a coalition between pride and poverty. In the *less* happy, but more polished circles of the drawing room, she is either totally overlooked ; or if she has beauty and merit sufficient to attract the *notice* of mankind, she is stared out of countenance by pride-swollen dowagers, to whose daughters Nature has been less indulgent,—talked *at* by disappointed spinsters, and satirized and laughed at by conceited misses.

If this book should ever be read by any ill-fated female, that *is*, or ever *has had* the dire misfortune to be placed in such a state of dependence, she will feel and acknowledge the truth of the drawing, that it is not too *highly* coloured, but a genuine copy from nature. Or, if one of the protectors of helpless females should feel a conscious blush at this description, and change the arrogant behaviour, too often the concomitant of unbounded

bounded wealth and prosperity, to soothing attention, we shall not have written in vain.

Ellinor's lively imagination looked forward to the various mortifications she must sustain in a dependant state : she determined to try, if complaisance and small variations of conduct, without descending to duplicity, would secure to her the esteem and goodwill of all parties ; she formed this resolution while Mrs. Buxton poured out her tea, whose numerous enquiries she answered with civility, though she did not gratify them to the extent her loquacious companion seemed to expect.

They had now an addition, to their party, by the entrance of Mr. Turnscrow, the butler, and Mrs. Betty, my lady's *own* woman ; the first was officiously attentive,—the latter regarded with less complacency their new guest, as one who, she supposed, at no very distant period, deprive her of her *parquises*.

Ellinor, not much pleased with society, where it was conspicuous her presence operated as a restraint, declined taking any supper, requesting Mrs. Blustle that a servant might be permitted to conduct her to her chamber. A bell was rung, and Fanny was ordered to light *mad mo-selle* up stairs, when a very pretty girl made her appearance, with more good-nature expressed in her countenance than in any face she had as yet seen in the family.

She preceded Ellinor to a neat apartment, There a cheerful fire blazed in the chimney ; after placing her candle upon the table, she said, “ Miss, if I can be of any use to undress you, or to help in unpacking your trunk, I shall be very glad to *serve* you, because you are so young and so pretty, and have *comed* such a great way from all your relations, to be amongst strangers,—but I *ax* pardon, Miss, for the liberty I takes, in speaking to you ; but I means no *arm in all the orld*, nor have no spite because you are *ansomer* than I be, like that *ould weefen-faced* walking-

walking stick, Mrs. Betty, who looked so *hill-natured* at you just now, because Mr. Turn-screw, *hour* butler, who is a great *hadmirer* of beauty, said, when he got a peep at you in the *all*, that you was quite a *Wenus*, and that you was *comed* to be a *swan* amongst the *geese*; so she was quite in her *hairs*, for she wants *im* to marry her; but I am *sartain* he knows better than to have such an *hill-natured ould cat*, whilst there are prettier to be *ad*. [Here Fanny took a peep in the glass at her own face, and seemed well pleased at the view.] And Mrs. Betty said, she did not know what *umble* companions *was* good for, except to stand in the way of their betters, and to make mischief in families; and she was sure they *was* wrong named, for they *was* all as proud as Lucifer; and George said she meant the devil."

Thus, without interruption, ran on the lively Fanny, whilst Ellinor undressed; by this artless conversation she divined, that if she did not prepossess the mistress of the

house, more in her favour than the servants, her time would not be passed in the most pleasant manner. To give a turn to the conversation, she enquired whether Sir James dined out with the family?

“ Oh dear, no ! poor gentleman, he seldom goes out ; he is so *molloncholly*, always reading *hout-landish* books, and he *ardly* ever speaks to any body ; but then he makes it up by talking to *imself hallways*, when he thinks nobody *ears* him : I don't like to go into his study when he be there, for I thinks he *be mazed* ; they do say that he was crossed in love, before he married my lady ; but for all that, he be a very good husband, father, and master, though for *sartain* he be a little *hoddish*.”

Fanny would have proceeded to give the history of the whole family, her great pleasure being to hear herself talk ; though her eloquence was not in the first order of good language, generally leaving out the *h* where it was, but that the respectable consonant might not complain of neglect, ever substituting

tuting it, where it ought not to be. Ellinor thanked the communicative Fanny, and told her she could dispense with her further attendance, having been educated in a convent, she had been accustomed to wait upon herself.

Now left alone,—her unprotected state,—the various and unpleasant tempers she should have to encounter in a family, that from every thing she had recently heard, did not comprise the most agreeable inmates, recurred to her imagination with all its poignancy. She revolved in her mind the joyless seventeen years she had already passed, during which period all the tender relations, the friendly intercourse of mutual affection, the attenuating cord that binds the child to the parent, she had *never* known : she appeared alone in this wide space of matter and motion ; there were none to whom her existence could afford pleasure ; not a single being who, in the hour of sickness and sorrow, would pour the balm of commiseration on her wounded spirit, or drop a friendly tear upon the humble

sod destined to receive the remains of the deserted Ellinor.

Thus did she oppress her mind with gloomy ideas of the past, the present, and the future; nor allow the flatterer *Hope* to gild her prospects. It is ever so with minds of sensibility long used to taste the cup of sorrow; their prescient vision presents the most gloomy prospects, while the giddy and the thoughtless anticipate gratification; and though their air-built castles are continually crumbling into ruins for want of a foundation, they, like children with a pack of cards, labour to renew the structure, to be again destroyed by the breath of the envious and idle. These martyrs to sensibility would still be unwilling to exchange situations with the frivolous or the torpid; for, if ever a gleam of pleasure illumines their path, they enjoy it with a *gossamer* not to be felt by *inanity*.

After Ellinor had shed a torrent of tears, her mental and bodily fatigue threw her into a sweet

a sweet sleep ; which was uninterrupted, till Fanny came into the room to light the fire ; by her she was informed that the family breakfasted at nine o'clock. She rose, and dressed herself in a muslin robe-de-chambre ; her beautiful and luxuriant hair was confined under a cap *a la paysanne*. Her figure thus elegantly neat, her manner unassuming, she was a more fascinating object, than a birth-night Belle glittering with all the splendour of foil and diamonds.

Thus, moving a Grace, and looking a Hebe, she entered Lady Lavington's breakfast room, who was already seated, accompanied by Sir James and their daughter ; to whom she paid her respects with a dignified ease that struck the ladies dumb with astonishment, who had only been prepared to receive a poor little orphan brought up in a Convent, possessing nothing but awkwardness and humility. They were now impressed with a sentiment bordering on respect, for the truly elegant and interesting object before them.

Sir James, who at her entrance was in a fit of profound meditation, *started* from his reverie at the dulcet sounds of her voice, and, with all the politeness of the *old school*, handed her to a chair; his Lady enquired about her health, her passage from Calais to Dover—if her journey to London had been pleasant—whether she was sorry to leave her companions in the convent—and many more unmeaning questions, which are, by a part of the world, denominated conversation.

Having made polite answers to all these enquiries, and the tea equipage being removed, Lady Lavington most graciously informed our heroine, that she had been recommended to her protection, as an orphan, and a young person well educated—in all respects a proper companion for Miss Lavington, who had just parted with her governess;—though anxious to improve herself in the French language, she preferred the society of one of her own age and country. Lady Lavington observed, that she was of a
domestic

domestic turn, and always overlooked the stewards' and housekeepers' accounts; Sir James's inactivity and supineness in all affairs of *this* world, was of such a nature, that if she had not undertaken to transact every sort of business, he must have been ruined long ago.

To this asseveration he bowed sarcastically, and she proceeded—"now it is my way to be methodical; I wish you to know, thus early, what my expectations are, and what you in return are to look up to me for. As I take it for granted you are mistress of the French language, and I wish Augusta, who understands it, also to speak it fluently, I desire you will converse in that language, when you are together. I am informed you are a good musician; you will therefore attend to her in that science in the absence of her masters; geography and embroidery are things of *course*—and you shall, in consideration of your late father being a gentleman, be introduced to *my* company, and be permitted to visit with *my* daughter—I shall, to enable you to make a proper

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appearance,

appearance, present you annually, with the sum of forty guineas!—Do you approve of my terms, Miss Harcourt?" Ellinor thanked her ladyship, and said she should endeavour, by her attention to Miss Lavington, to merit her approbation.

Sir James, who had regarded her with eyes that beamed with god-like pity all the time her parsimonious ladyship was enumerating the *various* avocations she was to attend to, for the brilliant establishment of ten guineas a quarter, well knew all his attempts to make Lady Lavington add to the sum would be ineffectual, her laws in his family being as absolute as those of the *Medes and Persians*; but he determined, if he could contrive it without hurting Ellinor's delicacy, to make her a present of a sum more adequate to the exertions she was expected to make for his daughter's advantage. Having thus settled it with his conscience, he politely addressed Ellinor, telling her, he felt grateful to the good fortune that had given Augusta so elegant and accomplished

complished a friend, which he hoped she would estimate properly, and that they would be mutually pleased with each other; hoped she would find a pleasant asylum in his house, and on him she might ever depend for a protector.

“ Lord! Papa, you are quite gallant; I think I never heard you make such a flaming speech before. Come, Miss Harcourt, we will go to my dressing room, as I expect my music master, and I have never yet played over his last lesson.”

They now retired to an elegant apartment, fitted up with great taste, where might be seen, most ostentatiously displayed, “ the pride, pomp, and circumstance of fashionable acquirements;” a grand piano-forte, the most difficult music of the greatest masters, scattered upon it in *studied* confusion; recesses of books filled with the best authors, glittering in gold and morocco; a celestial and terrestrial globe, elegantly mounted; all the apparatus for drawing, &c. &c.

Augusta was much at a loss how to demean herself to Ellinor—pride, mixed with envy, at her personal and mental superiority, whispered that she ought to keep her in the back ground, by treating her with cold reserve, and distant civility; whilst Ellinor's winning softness of manners, her studious attention to please, her good natured vivacity, forced Augusta to admire and love her, in opposition to the bad propensities of nature and education, and they soon became warm friends.

Ellinor, who had a quick perception of character, remarked at once the impression she had made, and determined not to lose the advantage she had gained by any mean condescensions, by which she must have sunk into insignificance; for first ideas we are seldom induced to change, whether good or ill; and she was one of those fortunate beings, whose appearance ever made an interest in the hearts of all her beholders.

CHAP. X.

ELLINOR had been resident five days in Grosvenor-street, where the propriety of her behaviour had gained her the friendship of all, from the lady of the mansion, to Fanny the pretty chambermaid; but with none was she a greater favourite than with Sir James, who, having heard her story, that is, *the one* dictated to her by her unfeeling guardian; but while reciting it, the deceiving so good a man, though forced upon her by dire necessity, covered her expressive face with burning blushes,—he commiserated her early loss of parents, and her unprotected state,—said she should ever find

find in him a friend,—wished that he had been the happy father of such a daughter,—that Augusta was diametrically opposite to what he once flattered himself she would have been ; her education he had not been permitted to have a voice in ; her temper, naturally irritable, had been rendered worse, by its never having been checked from infancy ; she had always done as she pleased, because she was heiress to a large fortune. Those placed about her by her mother, when she was young, rarely contradicted her, for they valued the emolument of their situations, more than her future happiness.

“ From you, Miss Harcourt, I hope better things ; you appear to have made an interest in her heart, which I flatter myself you will use to her advantage, by expanding her mind, and pointing out to her that she was created for the world, not the world for her. Instruct her, that born to a large fortune, she should use it for the good of society ; eradicate that attention to *self* which

I see with sorrow is her first consideration. I regret that she is not fond of reading, without which neither the head nor the heart can be improved. I wish you, if possible, to infuse into her mind a love of literature; by constantly observing you find such pleasure in the pursuit of knowledge, she may in time be prevailed on to try the experiment, 'for example draws where precept fails.' Do this, and you will eternally oblige me."

Ellinor thanked him for the good opinion he honoured her with, for his confidence, his offers of friendship and protection; assured him she would exert the influence Miss Lavington's partiality gave her, to induce her to be all his paternal solicitude could wish; and she had no doubt, as his daughter's mind expanded, she would be every thing his anxious fondness bid him hope.

This conversation passed one evening when she was left at home to make tea for Sir James, the ladies being gone into the city, from whence Lady Lavington derived her
origin,

origin, having been the heiress of a rich merchant, who inherited with his money the parsimonious meanness, and sordid avarice, that had enabled him to accumulate it; to *such* a woman was the generous, susceptible, philanthropic Sir James Lavington forced, by an inexorable father, to unite himself, who possessed not one requisite to contribute to his happiness; who married him, because he was esteemed a handsome man, and she should at some future period be called her ladyship: but to govern was her hobby-horse, and he quietly gave the reins into her hands, only stipulating, that he should dispose of his own time, and choose his society.

This was long and warmly disputed by the lady, but finding that she could not conquer, she was obliged to content herself, with exercising absolute dominion over every other part of her family. As the house of Lavington will have much to do in this history, we thought it incumbent on us to make our readers acquainted with its different branches.

Ellinor

Ellinor was making all hearts her own; even those whose minds, principles, and views, were diametrically opposite, were compelled to admire and love her, from her polished behaviour, and suavity of manners. She had the happy address to suit her attentions and conversation to all ages and all situations.

In her secluded education, having had great leisure for reflection, she had been accustomed to form her ideas of the world, and compare them with the sentiments of the authors she had read. From thence she formed her opinions of mankind, and of their various motives of action. Of the deceit practised in this great city, by the wicked and designing, to mislead the innocent and unwary, she had no conception; these were lessons she had yet to learn. Her mind was pure as new-fallen snow, and her breast the seat of truth and rectitude. While she acquired friends, by the propriety of her behaviour, she endeavoured to be as contented, as a mind like what we have described could be in a state of dependance.—
She

She felt for Sir James a truly filial regard, he constantly endeavouring, by the most polite and uniform attention, to make her forget the disagreeable situation in which Lady Lavington's petulance very frequently placed her. She looked up to him, as one of the best of men, and grieved to behold what was evidently marked in his expressive countenance, that he was far from happy, "that melancholy had marked him for her own."

Miss Lavington, with whom most of her time was spent, had since the first two days been kind and attentive; and had with all the ardour, and most probably with all the stability of *sixteen*, vowed everlasting friendship: this was the state of the family at the expiration of the first week since Ellinor's arrival. During this period her mind had often reverted to her friendly fellow traveller; she wondered at not having seen him as one of her ladyship's numerous visitors—she felt something that might be termed impatience—she was anxious to see and
thank

thank him, for his polite attention, and to say that she was not quite so unhappy as she expected to be.

She was revolving this interesting subject, while occupied with her embroidery, and Miss Lavington was *galloping* over a concerto to Sir James, who almost by a miracle did not withdraw on hearing the knocker announce morning visitors; when a footman announced colonel Campley and Mr. Howard. A rosy blush that suffused her cheek passed unobserved during the small bustle occasioned by the Colonel's introduction of his friend, which he performed with *bon grace*; telling Sir James, that Howard was a quiet, sober, sensible fellow, the very contrast to himself, and was ambitious of the honour of being ranked in the number of Sir James Lavington's friends; to her ladyship he declared that he had thought it an age since he had been prevented paying his respectful devoirs to the very best woman in the world, a perfect pattern for all good wives, and

and exemplary mothers—that he had, as he could never fail of doing, when she was mentioned, expatiated so much upon her merits, that his friend, had not ceased his importunities, till he had brought him to pay his respects, where they were so justly due.

Lady Lavington bowed, simpered at this inflated speech, and attempted to look sceptical, in respect to the superlatives he had so profusely heaped upon her, but her face manifested pleasure ; and the good effect of this dose of flattery was experienced by Howard, to whom she was more than civil—declaring, that she should at all times be happy to see him ; that she would order a card to be sent to his lodgings, for a rout she was to have the next week, reminding Campley of his having received a similar invitation six weeks since.

Sir James would have retired, not being well pleased to see his wife turned into ridicule, which was evident enough the Colonel was

was doing, to *all* but the lady herself, if he had not been detained by the sensible conversation and unassuming behaviour of Howard, who directed his discourse to him and the young ladies, while her ladyship was more agreeably engaged, swallowing with avidity all the scandal she could glean from the prolific brain, and satirical tongue of the accomplished Campley; who enlarged with great volubility upon the faults and misfortunes of her *dearest* friends, and most esteemed acquaintance.

As soon as Campley could make his escape, he paid his compliments to the young ladies; but, in spite of the management of his features, at which he was a great adept, he was evidently struck with Ellinor, and thrown so much off his guard, as to whisper Lady Lavington, loud enough to be heard by the rest of the party, “where did this effulgent constellation drop from, that the world has not yet been enlightened by its rays?—when, under your benign auspices,
do

do you propose it shall blaze forth, to irradiate and astonish this terraqueous globe?"

By the contraction of her mouth, the dilation of her nostrils, and scowl upon her forehead, he immediately perceived that a momentary surprise had thrown him off his guard, and that he had given great offence to the lady to whom this rhodomontade speech was addressed; when, recovering himself with his usual address, he added: "but you are ever thus *cruel*, it would, perhaps, be more decorous to say *kind*, to us poor men; for do you not keep her sister planet from the view of her numerous sighing admirers? I suppose it is your intention they shall appear together in full blaze to annihilate mankind."

This well-timed compliment averted the gathering storm, and smoothed the brow of her little ladyship; they parted upon the most amicable terms, but not before he, in an apparent careless way, had enquired in less high flown language, who Ellinor was?
and

and received this answer : “ She is a young person, an orphan destitute of friends and fortune, just come out of a convent ; from charitable motives I have received her into my family as companion to my daughter. As I am informed that her father was a gentleman, and the girl has been well educated, I intend introducing her to my company : as to her beauty, I wonder so competent a judge as the gallant Colonel Campley can allow her to possess any uncommon share. She is too thin, too fair, and her features are much too regular, to come under that denomination ; besides, she is continually smiling to show her teeth to advantage, which are, it must be owned, very white, but they are too large to please me.”

“ Oh ! my dear Lady,” interrupted Campley, who evidently laboured to repress his inclination to laugh, “ I perfectly agree with you, as to her possessing *all* the requisites you have described to make her *ugly*.”

The

The gentlemen now departed, and Sir James requested Howard that they might be upon a more friendly footing than mere acquaintance; the latter had not been able to say one word to Ellinor unobserved, but his eyes told her how ardently he wished for such an opportunity.

No sooner had the door closed upon them, than Campley exclaimed, “in what durance vile have I passed this morning for your service?—condemned to load that cadaverous Lady Lavington, whom I hate, with fulsome flattery, and to abuse her dearest friends for the gratification of her spleen; all this I have undergone to insure you a welcome reception in her family, and to give you a chance of carrying off the dowdy heiress, that you may found churches, and endow hospitals with her fifty thousand pounds. But, *entre nous*, did I not catch your eyes wandering to her fair companion? beware of her fascinations—you sentimental fellows are soon caught. Your old uncle

will

will never give his consent to your marrying her, and *you* are too rigidly old-fashioned in your notions, and too religious a man, to think of her in any other point of view—now not so *me*; I am compelled by motives of convenience to take a wife, and have not the least objection to live the *life of honour* with the delicious enchanting Ellinor. Break not, therefore, in upon my plan of pleasure; I leave the rich heiress to you, and will do every thing I can to aid, abet, and assist your projects. I thus early give you notice of my intentions, that you may not attempt to cross my views. I cannot divine what could induce the wary Lady Lavington to take under her protection, and make a part of her family, so perfect a creature as this Ellinor, to whom her daughter's deformity, will ever act as a foil."

Thus far had he rattled on, and might have continued in the same strain for a whole year uninterrupted by his companion, who was mentally condemning himself for his

folly in seeking an introduction from such a votary of dissipation, and not openly avowing his reasons for desiring it. He had ever held duplicity in contempt, and now execrated himself, for having in this instance only, adopted it.

He determined to acquaint Ellinor with the real character of Campley, that she might be guarded against his machinations; for when he reflected on her youth, her unsuspecting innocence, her little knowledge of the arts of bad men labouring for their purposes, the Colonel's really handsome person, his specious manners, which might blind her better judgment;—then again he thought on the honourable protection of such a man as Sir James Lavington, to whom even a Campley must pay respect. Howard resolved to cultivate his friendship, with unremitting attention.

Having thus rapidly laid his plans, to counteract Campley, he told him he looked on all he had just asserted as the mere *badinage* of the

the moment; for, libertine as he avowed himself to be, he could not seriously mean, for the mere gratification of a transitory passion, to rob a young and beautiful orphan of all that relentless fate had left her—the peace of mind arising from innocence, and conscious rectitude.

“ Hah! hah! hah! my dear puritanical friend, you should really have taken orders, as your uncle wanted you to do; you would have been the oracle of a country parish—you would have been admired, and idolized, by the ugly young women, and the neglected old!—how they would have loved “ the precepts for the teacher’s sake.” Be assured of this, bad as you think me, I am not inclined to take any undue advantage of the fair one’s situation; my way is boldly to offer myself when I admire a woman, and acquaint her with my intentions—if I am rejected, well—if I am accepted, better—I am above deception; my favourite must be as willing as myself. If

Miss Harcourt prefers my protection to meanness, stupidity, and dependence on the Lavingtons, I am the valourous knight that will free her from the Castle of Labour, and conduct her to the Residence of Pleasure, where, "the little loves and young desires inhabit." If she has the sense and spirit her countenance promises, she will despise the world in which she has *no stake*, and accept from me splendour and independence. If her ideas are too contracted to, "take the goods the gods provide her," she is not worth a thought, and may even vegetate where she is.

"These are my sentiments and intentions respecting Miss Lavington's companion; and now, with equal candour, inform me how you mean to conduct yourself in respect to that young lady?—Do you intend boldly to avow your passion, and make honourable overtures to her father, or use your powers of rhetoric to first insure yourself an interest in the heart of your *fair one*?"

"Neither

“Neither at present; I shall make no hasty determinations. I have only to observe, that I admire and honour the character of Sir James, and shall most certainly avail myself of your introduction to cultivate *his* acquaintance.”

“Prudently resolved—that, by getting into the good graces of the father, you may be enabled to carry off his daughter. *Prenez-garde*, my dear friend, or you may run the wrong side of the post—it will be like voting with the minority, where lies *all* the argument, and none of the interest, and from whom the loaves and fishes are not to be procured. To succeed, you must *change sides*, and pay all your attention to the dragon that guards the Hesperian tree, if you hope to pluck the golden fruit. But I have my doubts of your success, without you can rummage out in the archives of your ancestors, some pretensions to a dormant title—for your name, though a good one, will only give her daughter the *title* of Mrs. Howard.”

“ In answer to what you have advanced, I have only to observe, that whatever woman honours me with her hand, she must be contented with a *plain man*, without a title; for I know of none that my family has any pretensions to, and I despise the men too much who can consent to disgrace themselves and their ancestors, by *sinking* a name that has been in their families time immemorial, to accept a new created title, was my sovereign graciously to condescend to confer one on me.

“ For every new batch of peers I see gazetted from the ministerial oven, I feel a pang for the secession of those independent country gentlemen—a race almost extinct—who were formerly the honour and support of that palladium of British liberty the House of Commons, which will be soon filled with the venial tools of state policy—placemen—contractors—and pensioners—while the once spirited supporters of our Rights, removed to the upper house, in gratitude for their *bauble* of a title, are obliged to say *Aye* or *No*, as the giver of the *toy* dictates !”

“ What

“What a philippic, Citizen Howard, have you pronounced against the nobles of the land, “in deep divan assembled.” I advise thee to betake thyself to America, there thou wilt become a second Washington, and in time be chosen his successor, when he shall be “gathered to his fathers, full of years and honours!”

“I have no time at present, Mr. Camp-
ley, to enter into a justification of my principles; but, to speak in your own strain, I trust, I shall not, when called upon, be found wanting to answer for the faith that is in me. I must beg I may not be misunderstood—when I say, I hold titles in contempt, I do not mean the *ancient* nobility of the realm, for whose forefathers I feel an enthusiastic veneration—who received those *honourable distinctions* for fighting the battles of their country, in the fields of war, or the wisdom of their councils in the hour of peace—though I have too often occasion to grieve at the vices and follies of their degenerated progeny.”

They now parted; Campley to dress for a fashionable dinner at eight o'clock, and Howard to pay his respects to his uncle—a duty he never permitted any engagement to prevent his fulfilling once every day. Mortified, melancholy, and depressed, he foresaw his difficulties in respect to Ellinor, would increase by the very means he had taken to lessen them!—He was ten times more in love than ever—for, recovered from her fatigue, and her mind at ease, she appeared more enchantingly lovely than when first he saw her. How should he act?—he determined to be guided by circumstances—he dreaded the blandishments of Campley, whom the modest diffidence of his own merit, made him view in the light of a formidable rival.

CHAP. X.

AS soon as the Colonel and Mr. Howard had taken leave at Sir James Lavington's, and the young ladies were retired to dress, Augusta asked Ellinor how she liked the gentlemen from whom they had just parted? who replied, "I think Mr. Howard an agreeable, sensible, modest man; but Colonel Campley is a character that can never please *me*—there is that assumption of superiour understanding—that self-approbation of his own satirical vein—by him denominated wit—that evidently shews he expects to "charm all eyes, and please all ears."

"Well, I wonder at your taste in preferring that plain formal *odd body*, to such a charming, handsome, well-bred man, as

his friend, who must be a lord when his brother dies ; and mamma says, he is very sickly, will never marry, and cannot live long ”

Ellinor was effectually silenced ; for what had she to oppose to good breeding, a handsome person, and a title—but rectitude of conduct, a refined understanding, a susceptible heart, and unimpeached honour?—What would these old-fashioned virtues of the last century, avail against the refinements of our more enlightened days?—She therefore laughing, replied, that she knew not enough of the world, into which she was just entered, to estimate properly those merits which give the most consequence to its inhabitants : but she assured her friend she would set about getting rid of her obsolete notions.

Ellinor was now permitted to take a chair, at the lower end of the room, when Lady Lavington had company, and the superlative happiness ever attending the situation she was placed in, to be as totally overlooked by the females

female part of her ladyship's visitors as if she had not been present; none of their discourse being addressed to her, nor did they condescend to answer if she ventured a question.

One evening, tired of being treated like an automaton, the discourse turning on a subject upon which she felt herself competent to speak, she, with much modesty, attempted to join in the conversation. Lady Dy Daudle, with her large unmeaning grey eyes, stared her in the face, as if she meant to annihilate her; whilst Lady Fanny Flutter shot scornful glances from a brilliant pair of black ones. This soon drew upon the blushing Ellinor, those of the whole party of *all* colours and sizes, who feeling the consciousness of innate worth, determined to treat their pride, ignorance, and malice, with silent contempt.

The men now beginning to drop in, soon enabled her to triumph in her turn; for they crowded round her chair, ogled, com-

plimented, flattered, and appeared by their attention and admiration, to have in their eyes, nor ears, for any other female in the room.

These ladies, who so lately would not condescend to speak *to* her, now began to talk *at* her: Lady Fanny wondered how any body who valued the peace of their family, could think of taking girls into their houses as companions!

“ Only think, Lady Dy, of poor Mrs. Meanwell, who, after the death of Thompson the Rector, took one of his *eight* daughters, and had her taught every thing she was capable of comprehending; she treated her like her own child, and not content with removing her from the sphere that she ought to have remained in, she forced her down the throats of all her company. She was a poor, little, stupid, whey-faced thing, whom no person would have supposed capable, though she possessed the inclination to be guilty of such an action,—yesterday morning she eloped to Scotland

land with the eldest son of her benefactress ; and though his father set out after them with all possible celerity, they had so well managed, to get several hours the start of their pursuer it is supposed they will not be overtaken."

Lady Dy protested, she was quite shocked at the ingratitude of the creature, but was vastly glad it had happened, as it might be a warning to others, looking full at Lady Lavington.—“ Oh dear,” says Lady Fritterfame, “ it is the way of them all : for a twelvemonth since I was induced, from mere motives of charity, to take into my house a daughter of Colonel Howitzer, who was killed in America. I only expected her to make up my millinery and dresses, clean my laces, write my cards, answer my letters of business, superintend my house accounts, and embroider a court dress, when not employed in the avocations I have mentioned ! For this I permitted her to dine with me when I had *no* company, or nobody *I cared*
for,

for, and gave her *twenty pounds* a year ; she had the impertinence, because I ordered her to clean and feed my birds, and to wash and comb poor dear little Fidelle, to tell me that she did the work of all the servants in my house, without their *wages* ; and that, tho' she had condescended to wait upon me, she certainly should not think it equally necessary, to *attend* my birds and beasts."

" Oh ! the creature ! how ungrateful,—so good as you was to her !" was echoed from all parts of the room ; " what did you do, Lady Fritterfame ?"

" I bid her take herself, and her beggarly pride out of my house directly."

" Vastly right : you acted as I should have done," replied Lady Dy Daudle. The stories of ungrateful humble companions were like those related of *ghosts* ; each had one to tell, the last more wonderful than what had preceded it. Ellinor was condemned to hear them all ; and, well assured their sarcasms were levelled

levelled at her, suffered extreme mortification till the conversation ended.

At supper she could not eat, and Sir James enquiring the reason, she burst into tears; but her heart was too full to answer. Augusta informed her father of the cause, and repeated the discourse of the evening. He was much enraged, and spoke with great asperity to Lady Lavington for not attempting to silence such improper conversation, that could only be intended to hurt the feelings of a worthy and charming young woman, whom she had undertaken to protect; therefore she should not have permitted her to be insulted under *her* roof. It was a breach of hospitality that no circumstances could justify:—the unenlightened savage, when once he receives into his hut a stranger, will fight, nay, even *die* to protect his guest from the rude assaults of his own tribe.

Lady Lavington replied,—she was truly sorry for what had been said; but that it was

was totally out of her power to prevent her company from conversing on any topic they might chuse to select.—Sir James wished that he had been present ; for, hardened as he supposed women of fashion were to the sufferings of their own sex, he thought he could have made them ashamed of such cruel behaviour.—Ellinor requested that no more might be said upon the subject, and hoped that time would render her less susceptible ; for though she knew her dependent state subjected her to insult from the proud and unfeeling, she could not as yet endure it with that cool indifference, nor treat it with the contempt it merited.

She observed that she ought not to grieve at so transitory an inconvenience, but be grateful to the Providence that had placed her in a family, whose inmates were so diametrically opposite to those from whom she had just parted ; and the kindness she experienced from Sir James and Lady Lavington, would more than compensate for the slights she might endure from others.

Time

Time hung heavy on the hands of Howard ; he had called upon Sir James, and had been admitted into his study : but as the baronet seldom mixed with her ladyship's visitors, he had not as yet seen Ellinor. He began to think Campley was right ; that he must make himself an interest with the *head* of the house, if he meant to feast his eyes with their dearest object. Howard had rather avoided than sought the company of Campley, since the morning when he introduced him to Grosvenor-street ; for he dreaded his penetrating eyes, fearing he would read in his behaviour, his attachment to Ellinor ; but he could not bear that he should think he meant to address Miss Lavington ; it was acting a part from which his generous soul shrunk : but to avow his motives, was to destroy his hopes present and future.

How to steer clear of *Scylla*, without being wrecked on *Charibdis*, he knew not. On the morrow was to be the rout or gala, including a ball and supper that Lady Lavington had
sent

sent him a card for, according to her promise; he flattered himself, that during the bustle he should be able to snatch a moment to speak to the fair arbitress of his fate.

Whilst these tumultuous thoughts engrossed Howard, the family in Grosvenor-street was not more calm, though from very different motives. All their time was, and had been for many preceding days, busily employed in preparations for the splendid fête, to which all the world were invited, and to accommodate whom every room in the house was appropriated; the study of Sir James excepted, which was a *sanctum sanctorum* not to be polluted by such unhallowed guests as would form the society of that festive evening. To this retreat from folly had he retired for many days prior to the one dedicated to the goddess of pleasure, and her fantastic train. From this calm asylum he smiled "at the danger and defied the storm" that pervaded every other part of his habitation. Augusta had been ordered
by

by her mother, to use her influence to induce him to give up this favourite apartment for a card room, for *that night only*. Positive to that point alone, of calling *one* room in his house his own, he gave a decided negative to her request ; and insisted, as she valued his displeasure, that she never would attempt to make it again.

Lady Lavington, thus baffled in her scheme to gain possession of the study, what was to be done to accommodate her numerous guests ? A happy thought occurred to procure room, by taking down the *beds*, and appropriating the apartments that contained them for cards and refreshments.—The temporary inconvenience of not having one to retire to after the fatigues of the night, was a trifle to the splendid gratification of receiving of *all the world*, and seeing, most heterogenously mixed, fat aldermen's ladies, debilitated peers, high-blooded duchesses, army contractors, bearded dowagers, and colonels with unrazor'd lips,
young

young ladies of of high *ton*, East India directors of no *ton* at all, saffron-faced spinsters, and counsel learned in the law !

With such motley groups are fashionable routs filled ; where, when you have squeezed through the well-dressed crowd that surrounds the lady of the house, and paid your compliments, she sets you immediately down to a table, when, after having played your rubber, and deposited your *card money*, you *resign* your place to one of the attending expectants that is eagerly waiting for it.

If you happen to be one of those who seek for the charms of conversation, refined sense, or sprightly wit, and hope to meet it in so numerous an assemblage of various characters, *we* are sorry for your disappointment. All you will hear from the surrounding multitude, is how they *lost* the last game by their partner's bad play ; who, had their knowledge of the chances been equal to theirs, might have been *won*. All the losers
lay

lay the blame of their ill-luck upon dame *Fortune*; none to their own want of *skill*; whilst the winners *exult* over their crest-fallen opponents, and attribute their success alone to superior science.

- “ Thus passes the night, to-morrow, and to-morrow,
“ Which in the dull round of petty time,
“ Have lighted fools with empty pockets home.”

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

ELLINOR, though she had never seen a ball-room decorated, had a natural refined taste, with an elegant fancy, which aided by her skill in making artificial flowers, and painting transparencies, that she had learned in the Convent, enabled her to take an active part in embellishing the apartments.— Indeed Lady Lavinton, finding her so capable of the task, left to her the planning and entire execution ; which was performed in so superior a style of elegance to any thing she had yet seen, that Ellinor, from that moment became a great favourite with her ladyship, who undertook nothing without consulting her.

The

The day before the gala, Augusta and Ellinor tapped at Sir James's door, and entreated him to come and give his opinion of their works of *art*; he would rather have been excused; but it was not his nature to resist the entreaties of such pleaders; therefore he allowed himself to be led to the decorated spot, where he was struck with the "*simplex munditii*" that pervaded the whole, which met his entire approbation. On enquiring who was the person employed to execute the designs, he was both surprized and charmed to hear it was Ellinor, and he paid her many compliments on her taste and judgement.

On the morning that ushered in the important day, Sir James presented Augusta with an elegant pair of pearl ear-rings, at the same time giving her a box that contained their counterpart, desired she would prevail on Ellinor to accept them as a gift from herself, for the trouble she had taken in ornamenting the ball-room. She told

5 Sir

Sir James she should be most happy to present them to her friend, as a donation from *him*; but that she had learned from Ellinor, not to assume false consequence to herself from the generosity of another, nor should she be forgiven if she attempted to deceive her; therefore begged leave to decline conveying his present.

Her father embraced her; declared he was charmed with the propriety of her sentiments, and equally so with the worthy girl from whose admonitions she acknowledged she imbibed them. For lessons of such importance to her future life, he thought Ellinor ought to be rewarded with *diamonds* instead of pearls; he therefore desired her to entreat her acceptance of the ear rings from him, as a small tribute of gratitude for the good instructions she had given his dear Augusta. Kissing her father's hand, away she flew to deliver his message and present. Ellinor felt gratified as much by the former, as the latter; for, to have her conduct approved by the man she looked

up

up to, as the first and best of created beings, was to her a proud triumph. But we do not mean to assert our heroine was so little of a woman, as not to be highly pleased with her ear rings, which, when she tried them on before her glass, made her eyes sparkle with pleasure.

Augusta and Ellinor arranged the important articles of their dress for the evening; they then went to Sir James, where Ellinor in elegant and appropriate language poured out the grateful effusions of her heart in thanks for his present and his flattering message; but more for his unremitting attention to her ever since she had the honour and happiness of becoming one of his family. The girls now extorted a promise from him that he would join the company at night, at least for the early part of the evening.

“ If it will give you pleasure I will come and see you dance; I can retire to bed when I am weary—I shall not be missed, for I

believe the numerous guests at supper will not all find places."

At this speech they both smiled, and when Sir James enquired the reason, Augusta said, "my dear papa, we laughed to hear you talk of going to bed, when we can assure you, that yours has been taken down this morning, to form another supper room!"

"Well! this is carrying folly to the extreme, when we part with our beds to oblige our company; I think Lady Lavington should have consulted my convenience, before she put such an excentric plan into execution."

"Dear Sir," replied Ellinor, "do not be offended with her ladyship, who gives herself all this trouble to procure pleasure for her friends, for it is impossible she should receive any herself who suffers so much care and anxiety for fear that every thing should be just as she wishes."

"You are right, child; this *mania* for crowding our house with people who care
not

not whether we ever existed, or if we ceased to do so, the very instant the *gala* ends, like all other follies brings with it its own punishment in loss of money, loss of health, and loss of time. The last of these is of the most serious consequence, as it is at a certain period of our existence irretrievable."

Mrs. Betty now entered to say, that the hair-dresser waited; that he could *give* them but one hour, he had so many ladies to dress for their *gawlaw*; "go, my dear girls, to this important personage, who, while he does you the honour to take your money, so prudently limits the time he can *give* you; but permit me to be an advocate for Dame Nature—suffer not the man of friz to deform her works any more, than merely to comply in a small degree with the present reigning taste. I mean not that I would have my daughter appear in the ruff and farthingale of her great grandmother; but to follow the extremes in any fashion, is, in my opinion, equally absurd, and always defeats the intent

of attracting admiration—men of sense will ever prefer native graces to fashionable eccentricities.”

They promised his advice should be their guide at the toilet, and they hoped it would have a good effect on their appearance at night. It was less necessary to Ellinor than to Augusta, the former never having been initiated into the mazes of fashion, had acquired a taste and fancy in dress all her own; with her beautiful face, and elegant figure, she looked charming in any attire, however whimsical—not that she wished to appear singular, she had too just an idea of propriety; but she avoided servile imitation, and the slavery of those who follow the labyrinth of what is called the mode;—while the latter, whose ample allowance enabled her to indulge in every new fancy, was apt to run into extremes, and overload her little figure with finery, which, though small was formed with symmetry,—whose effect entirely destroyed from being over-dressed.

This

This had often struck Ellinor very forcibly, and she wished to offer her opinion upon the subject: convinced from this conversation with Sir James, that his thoughts coincided with her own, she determined to make a tender of her assistance to Miss Lavington on this memorable day; it was cheerfully accepted, as Augusta had a very high idea of Ellinor's superiour taste in that most *important* article—dress. The result was, that she appeared to greater advantage than ever she had done before: but, as so much has been said on this subject, we will endeavour to oblige our female readers by describing how the ladies were armed for conquest when they entered the drawing-room.

Miss Lavington wore a silver muslin robe, made to show her shape to the greatest advantage—for at that time it was not the *rage* to level all distinction of form and size—to see the fat widow of sixty, and her grand daughter of sixteen, with their petticoats flung
H 3 with

with braces across their shoulders, whose circumference of waist is, by this *levelling* fashion rendered on an *equality*,—no, the shapes of our belles were

“Fine by degrees, and beautifully less.”

Augusta's hair was lightly powdered, and ornamented with strings of pearls, and a plume of snowy Ostrich feathers. Ellinor was dressed in a white crape robe, trimmed with a satin border, elegantly embroidered by herself in moss roses and violets; her hair dressed, without powder; its luxuriance confined by fillets of rose buds.—They each wore the ear rings presented by Sir James, to whom they paid a visit before they joined Lady Lavington, and received his approbation at the simple elegance of their appearance.—He handed them to the drawing-room, where he found her ladyship with some old-fashioned visitants, who had in despite of modern taste dared to make their *entrée* so early as nine o'clock; these were soon disposed of at
fobe

fober whist—and at ten the world of fashion and gaiety began to pour in rapidly, till the crowd and heat became intolerable.

Lady Fanny Flutter vowed, “ it was a most charming squeeze—the most delightful she had experienced the whole winter—not but that last Sunday evening’s concert at Lady Harrowtone’s was so crowded, the fiddlers could not find room to rosin their bows, or bring their hands forward to turn over a leaf in their music books, they were so jammed together. In this dilemma the poor devils were obliged to play the first part of the symphony over and over again five or six times; but it did vastly well, for it would not have been attended to, if they had played it through—indeed the largest portion of the company was stationed in apartments too remote from the concert room, for them to distinguish a presto from a minuet. The last who arrived were obliged to remain on the stairs, and that was by far the most *pleasant* situation, as we had with

H 4

the

the delectable Campley, and made our remarks upon all that came in, or went out; was not that most delicious, my dear Miss Lavington?"

Augusta replied, she feared she should have been so unfashionable as to wish for a place near the music room, to have heard the fascinating voice of the enchanting and incomparable Billington, for which she would have renounced almost any other gratification.

"Oh!" replied her ladyship, "you may hear her by going to Covent Garden, where you will be obliged to sit still, and remain quiet, on pain of being called to *order* by the brutes in the pit."

This trifling conversation was interrupted by Lady Lavington's summoning them to the ball room, where all of beauty and fashion had assembled, that compose the circles in this gay metropolis. To our heroine all this was new, all was charming that met her wondering eyes—

eyes—the brilliancy of the various coloured lamps, intermixed with emblematic transparencies, and festoons of flowers, though she had arranged and executed the greatest part of these ornaments, she could form no adequate idea of their effect, till she saw them lighted; to this were added the enlivening strains of an excellent band of music, which with the splendid dresses of the ladies, formed all together a *coup d'oeil* quite fascinating—she appeared to tread enchanted ground, and thought the tales of Fairies and Genii were not so fabulous and incomprehensible, as she once supposed them. Perhaps she was more to be envied than any person in the whole assembly, as her natural spirits, exhilarated by a scene of such novelty, enabled her to enjoy the various pleasures of the evening with a *gout* unknown to those who run from one amusement to another, till gratification is lost in satiety.

Ellinor soon distinguished in the group Howard with Campley; the former, whose

eyes were fixed on the door, joined them on their entrance, and solicited the honour of her hand, for the two first dances; his request was with a smile complied with: he led her to the set, but the couples were so numerous, and they increased so rapidly, that any attempt at graceful dancing was impracticable. All that could be effected was done by Ellinor; a buzz was heard among the men: "Who is that charming creature?"

"She dances *à-la-merveille!*"

"Quite a divinity, 'pon honour!—Is the angel one of *us*?" enquired Lord Torpedo, of his equally listless partner, Lady Di Daudle.

"How can you distress me by such a question? she is a creature of yesterday:" replied her ladyship, "a nobody—a personage taken from a convent, to act in the double capacity of governess and companion to Miss Lavington."

This good-natured piece of intelligence was given in the true quality key, and was whispered from one to another of the surrounding

rounding group—its magnitude encreasing as it travelled like a snow ball, till its fair author herself could hardly discover it to be her *own*. In consequence of Lady Di's information, the ladies were all so much engaged, when our heroine was to turn them, or to lead outsidés, that they neither saw, nor noticed her, and when it came to her turn to go down the dance, they were vastly fatigued, and retired to their place, except a few young ladies, untitled and not of the highest consideration.

The placid temper of Howard was so much roused at the pointed neglect and insult, so evidently directed at the woman his soul adored, that he said aloud, “ Miss Harcourt this premeditated rudeness should to you be very gratifying, for be assured we do not fear those we condemn, but those whose superiour attractions we are conscious of, and are compelled internally to acknowledge—it is wisdom to shun the contest, when sure of defeat.”

Not one appeared to understand this farcasm, but its good effect was seen conspicuous, for the next set they all remained in their places. Ellinor would have declined dancing, but Howard earnestly entreated her to go down it; when they had finished Colonel Campley solicited her to honour him with her hand for the next two; she could not refuse, as it was the rule of the evening to change partners. He entertained her with his remarks on the company, all of whom he knew, and against most of which he shot the sharpest arrows of his wit.

Truth compels us to acknowledge that Ellinor was more pleased at his satirical attacks, levelled against her recent foes, than the purity of our christian system allows; she thought his manner very agreeable,—he was convinced, that she was the most enchanting of her sex. She was restored to perfect good humour, perceiving, that by dancing with their favourite beau, she amply revenged herself upon all her opponents; and as we observed at the commencement of this

history that our heroine was but *a woman*, we are compelled to acknowledge that she felt gratified at a little retaliation.

But no female heart in the party felt more chagrin than Howard's;—he was dancing with Miss Lavington, but his eyes so constantly followed Ellinor, and he made so many awkward mistakes, that it occasioned his partner to observe, “that his heart appeared to be in one part of the room, and the rest of his person in another.” He tried to laugh away her assertion, by declaring how impossible it was to be thus divided, when he had the happiness to be so near a magnet of attraction.

The heat became now so oppressive, and the company so numerous, that many who wished to dance, were compelled to desist from the attempt. The set that had finished agreed to give up their situation for the next two—Howard now flattered himself with being able to get an opportunity of
speaking

speaking to Ellinor ; but he was not so near that happiness as he supposed, for his honourable friend took his place beside her, and contrived that he should not get to speak to her for the remainder of the evening. At one o'clock the company sat down to a superb supper ; but so great was the crowd, that very few of the gentlemen could find places, but with much gallantry stood behind the chairs of the ladies. The ball did not conclude till near six in the morning ; Sir James disgusted with folly, retired before supper to his valet's chamber, and the ladies at the departure of their guests, betook themselves to the attics, till their own beds could be restored to their places.

CHAP. VIII.

HAVING left our heroine in the arms of Morpheus, who we trust will shed his poppies over her silken lashes, we will take a view of what passed in the thoughts of Colonel Campley and Mr. Howard; for though the former did at first think, from his friend's application to him for an introduction to Sir James Lavington, that he meant to address his daughter, he saw reason to change his opinion on this first visit, from his evident trepidation, when he avowed how much he was charmed with Ellinor's person; his defence of her this night; his apparent disappointment, when not able to get near enough to speak to her; the jealous eyes

eyes with which he followed him when dancing with her; all these circumstances convinced him that Howard was in love, and Ellinor was the object, and would of course do every thing in his power to circumvent him, in any effort he might make to gain her.

Campley could not forgive him the attempt of imposing upon his superiour cunning;—he that was the very prince of intrigue,—who carried on his machinations triumphantly to the terror of all the peaceable families, who opened their doors to him—he to be chosen as a pander to another, (for he would not believe that Howard could seriously think of marrying this pretty beggar), and if she was to be had on more easy terms, surely there could be no doubt which of them she would chuse:—not that he could be said to be in love with Ellinor, though he certainly thought her a very desirable creature, but he had in the possession of her two points to carry—first, for *weighty* reasons

reasons, he determined to marry, but it was to one that would give him neither personal pleasure, nor *eclat* with the world;—now such a mistress as Ellinor, would assuredly do *both*, and he thought it a compensation he owed himself for the sacrifice of his sweet person; besides, he should have the satisfaction of revenging himself on Howard, who had attempted to make him *useful*—an attempt never made before.

Howard, on his return from Lady Lavington's, threw himself into bed, but not to sleep; he was convinced by the pains Camp-ley had taken to prevent his conversing with Ellinor, and by the intelligent looks he threw at him in the course of the evening, that he was not the dupe of his passion for Miss Lavington: he knew him to be vindictive, and that he would think himself justified in revenging what he called an imposition. He seriously repented ever allowing the appearance of duplicity to prevail, even for a moment, and should have thought it properly

perly punished by any thing short of losing Ellinor.

He feared the attractive blandishments of Campley would make an interest in her heart—he saw that she was charmed by his assiduities, and amused by his vivacity—he determined to serve her as a friend, and by the time he arose, had convinced *himself*, that was she safe and happy, he could be contented with no dearer title.

In the hope of finding a favourable moment to speak to Ellinor alone, he called in Grosvenor-street at two o'clock, when his good genius favoured him beyond his most sanguine expectations—Lady Lavington being employed with Mrs. Bustle to see order once more rise out of chaos; Sir James had rode out to avoid the confusion—Miss Lavington had just accompanied Lady Fanny Flutter to tumble over gauzes, and discompose ribbons—in fashionable language, they were gone a shopping.

Ellinor

Ellinor had sat down to the piano forte, to amuse herself with playing Pleyel's concertante, when the servant announced Mr. Howard. She received him with that smile of placid pleasure, which ever lights up the countenance at the appearance of a friend we esteem: she held out her hand, and said she was happy to see him—but she shewed no alarm, she did not blush—her voice, when she told him so, was not tremulous—her reception of him was such as must have gratified the *friend*, but have given a death blow to the *lover*—in truth, Ellinor was not in *love*. Howard saw it plainly, and a sigh broke from his breast at the conviction—she told him,—that as she flattered herself he took some interest in her situation, she was happy to inform him, it was more agreeable than from its first appearance, when he parted from her, she could have promised herself it would be. Sir James was the most worthy of men, and exerted himself to make her feel as little as possible her dependent state; there was a certain portion of acidity in the

the composition of her ladyship, which was too apt to turn the pleasures of those connected with her to pain—but the milk of human kindness displayed in all the actions of Sir James acted as an antidote to her acerbity, and kept the family in an equilibrium.

Miss Lavington, with whom most of her time was spent, was literally a spoilt child; she appeared to have taken a fancy to her, and they were on terms of friendship. Her greatest complaint was against Lady Lavington's visitors, who, as she was fond of choosing her acquaintance from amongst the nobility, think they do her a great honour, in winning her money at cards, and eating her dinners, for which they repay her by laughing at her behind her back, and insulting her companion to her face!

“ This, Mr. Howard, you saw an instance of last night, though not the first
I have

I have experienced; for your generous interference accept my heartfelt gratitude."

"I could do you but little service, Miss Harcourt, I was not of consequence enough in the scale of *ton* to make my reproofs of any weight; but the attentions you received from their favourite Colonel mortified them most severely, and drew the envy of all the ladies to one *focus*."

"I thought I perceived that myself; and I fear I took an ill-natured satisfaction in receiving his *devoirs*, which I believe I appeared to do with a pleasure I did not feel, for he is very far from being a favourite of mine; he has undoubtedly wit, but it is of that satirical sort that impels us to fear more than love its possessor."

"Now we are on the subject of the Colonel, I wish you Miss Harcourt to know his real character; for it is very evident to me, that he will be a frequent visitor here, and a profest admirer of your fair self."

Ellinor

Ellinor told him she should be much obliged for the amusement, a sketch of such a character as Colonel Campley's could not fail to give, though she thought there was no probability of noticing her, but to torment and shew his power over the hearts of others, as had doubtless been his motive the preceding evening.

“ The Honourable Edward Campley is the younger son of a nobleman, who, at the age of twenty one, found himself by the death of his father, his own master with a fortune of ten thousand pounds. He had been Captain of the School at Eton, where his enterprising spirit, and mischievous frolics, made him the terror of the neighbourhood for ten miles round. He was entered a Gentleman Commoner at Christ Church, Oxford, and took his degree of Batchelor of *Arts*, a title he has deserved to the present time. He was by the old lord intended for the church, because there was a rich living in the family; but he determined they should
not

not make "a man of such spirit a priest." As he preferred the articles of war to the thirty-nine articles, when he became his own master he purchased a commission in the Guards, because he thought a red coat and cockade set off his handsome person to the best advantage.

"Thus gifted by fortune and nature to do mischief, he dashed on the town with most wonderful *eclat*—got himself chosen a member of Brook's Club—punted deeply at the ladies' faro tables—hunted and drank with their husbands, and intrigued with their daughters—attended the idle and vain, who lounge away their time at auctions in the morning—looked through the glass of connoisseurship—gave a *decided* opinion of the *original* works of old masters—talked aloud of the grouping of Rubens, the colouring of Titian, the harmony of Corregio, and the glowing tints of Claud de Lorraine.

" In

“ In the evening he was constantly to be seen displaying his fine person in Fop’s Alley—or with studied grace lolling over the chair of some fashionable toast, or gay wife, whose familiarity would add to his celebrity in the eyes of the world, whom he was ever ready to hand to her carriage, and, if invited, (which was not seldom) to partake of her *petit souper*. He has a quick perception of characters, and a happy knack at describing them—an easy flow of language, with a most satirical vein of wit : he has made himself acquainted with the private history of most of the fashionable world, which he tells in his own way, that highly gratifies his hearers ; though to goodness of heart, and rectitude of manners like yours, it may appear improbable, there are women whose greatest enjoyment consists in hearing their dearest friends’ and most intimate acquaintances’ faults and follies exhibited in a ridiculous point of view—to their houses he was ever a welcome guest—self so far predominating in the human breast, as to prevent their imagining, while they

laughed at the objects of his sarcasms, that he would give them ample revenge by enabling others to laugh at them in their turn.

“ He is a libertine from principle—an avowed disciple of the late Lord Chesterfield of simulating memory, and the peace of many families has been destroyed by his arts and blandishments;—many a female victim has, and still mourns the effects of his duplicity and fascinations, since he commenced his career. With all that appearance of careless indifference he assumes, he loves money, and has so contrived to manage the patrimony left him by his father, as to appear in high style; but maugre all his prudential care, it is said to be much exhausted by some recent losses;—for though he plays warily, and makes his bets with caution, he has lately been often *hit*.

“ Matrimony is his *derniere* resource; for he has ever looked forward to a wealthy marriage, to enable him to enjoy the ostentatious

tious splendour he loves. To answer this desirable purpose, he has been paying court to young heireffes, at the west end of the town, with fortunes at their own disposal, whose vanity would be gratified by carrying off the handsome Campley from their mortified acquaintance. But having hitherto failed to please himself, he has lately condescended to turn his eyes towards the city, and to lay his snares for the daughter of some rich trader, who may be inclined to part with his sterling gold, to enoble the puddle that flows in his veins, by matching her to an *honourable*, with hopes of a future title—as he positively avows that his brother will never marry, and the family estate and dignities of course devolve to himself.

“ He has not as yet made his selection though he has often been near the matrimonial noose; but it is said he has now a city fair one in view, though he does not acknowledge it—for while his necessities compel him to address the daughter, his pride
is

is mortified at the mean origin from whence she is descended.

“ It has often roused my indignation at the folly of parents so eagerly giving their hard-earned property to be lavished away by indigent lordlings; who, whilst they condescend to spend their money, are ashamed to acknowledge the source from whence it flows;—who treat the fathers with insolence and the daughters with contemptuous neglect; who, if they had been contented to *match* them in their own sphere, might have been both happy and respectable.—But thus it will ever be, while we prefer the appearance to the reality, and sacrifice pleasure for splendour, happiness for supporters, and comfort for the grandeur of a court.

“ I beg your pardon, Miss Harcourt, for this long digression, but it has so often happened that I have met with worthy objects made miserable by the absurd ambition of being allied to nobility, that when it

becomes the subject of conversation, I feel an irresistible propensity to express my disapprobation.

“ The character I have given of the Colonel is not exaggerated, yet he is every where well received; he knows perfectly how to make himself of consequence by flattering the vanity of the young and handsome, and working on the fears of the old and ugly, who dread his talents for ridicule.

“ After what I have advanced, I fear you will not think it redounds much to my credit his calling himself my friend;—but the truth is, he has never been so, according to the *real* acceptation of the word, though we have long been acquainted, were school-fellows at Eton, and since fellow collegians. Our pleasures, pursuits, and avocations, have been so opposite, and we differ so widely in our ideas of the motives that ought to influence the actions of mankind in their intercourse with the world,
—that

—that the approbation, confidence, and esteem, which arise from mutual sensations, and form the real basis of friendship, has ever precluded me from a strict intimacy with Campley.

“ I knew he visited this family, and could not avoid availing myself of his interest to gain an introduction, that I sometimes might have it in my power to see you, and to be honoured with your commands;—for to serve you would give me infinite pleasure. I doubt that Campley will suspect me of duplicity in my application to him, for he thought it was with an intention of addressing the daughter that I wished to become a visitor at Sir James Lavington’s;—unwilling to avow the real motives, I allowed him to cherish the mistaken idea; but I suspect that, from his recent behaviour, he guesses at the magnet which attracts me, as he himself appears to feel its power.

“ He will pretend to believe me the lover of Miss Lavington, as a punishment for attempting to deceive him;—I detest deception—being both wrong and impolitic, and seldom answering the purpose for which it is used. *Truth* should be the basis of all our actions, nor should we swerve from it, however assailed by the temptation of the moment.

“ I have long sought for the opportunity that my good genius has this morning presented, of finding you alone, to be able to develop Campley’s character, and to put you on your guard, as I am convinced he will solicit to wear your chains, and avow himself your slave. Excuse, Miss Harcourt, the liberty I take;—it is sincere friendship that induces me to say, “beware of Campley,” for, like Proteus, he assumes any character, and as he can render himself very agreeable, his specious arts are more to be feared by a young and innocent woman,
to

to whom the machinations of designing men are unknown."

Ellinor, who had listened attentively to Howard's account of Campley, thanked him for the trouble he had taken, to put her on her guard against this formidable Colonel: assured him that she had nothing to fear, as he was not the kind of man that could make himself an interest in her heart, and while she kept that in her possession, she thought she had little to dread from this all conquering hero. She repeated how much she felt honoured and flattered by Howard's attention to her prosperity and happiness;—assured him she should let the character she had heard, and the good advice she had received, direct her conduct, and teach her to avoid all familiarity with a man so capable, and so disposed to take every advantage of her unfriended and dependent situation.

These genuine effusions, evidently coming from her heart, gave inexpressible pleasure

to Howard, which manifested itself in the benignant smile that lighted up his honest countenance, and gave a vivacity to his conversation, which at all times was instructive and pleasing. No woman ever conversed with him an hour, without forgetting that he was far from handsome; his manners were gentle and polite; the universal philanthropy that guided his actions, beamed in his expressive eyes, and gave a softness to the tones of his voice, that made their way direct to the hearts of his auditors.

Lady Lavington now entered, and complained of fatigue and a severe head ache, the consequence of the nocturnal orgies of the past evening; Mr. Howard soon took his leave with a heart much lightened of those distrusts, cares, and jealousies, with which he had entered.

CHAP. XIV.

AS soon as the good order and œconomy of Lady Lavington's household were restored after the *fête*, Augusta and Ellinor resumed their accustomed studies and avocations; and, as gratitude was ever a leading *trait* in our heroine's character, she called forth all her acquirements to contribute to the improvement of the daughter of her protector, and she had soon the pleasure of seeing her exertions succeed beyond her most sanguine expectations. Miss Lavington had a good ear for musick, and a brilliant finger, but inattention prevented her from being correct—her patience was not equal to the labour of hard practice, so that when playing in concert

one of Hadyn's or Pleyel's divine sonatas, she left out many notes in the most brilliant passages, and performed the andantes and adagios so much *con spirito*, that the musicians, who had the difficult task of accompanying, were obliged to skip and wait, and to exert their utmost skill to cover the defects of her performance. She had also learned from some lady players of her acquaintance, when she had put them all at *fault*, to frown, shake her head, and attempt to mark the time, and by such common artifices, succeeded in making her audience believe, that they misled her, instead of she them, in this musical *chase*.

Ellinor prevailed on her to bestow more time and attention in cultivating this fashionable and charming science; Augusta followed her directions, and the good effects were soon discernable. By constantly conversing in the French language, she had acquired a no inconsiderable degree of fluency in expressing herself: books, that had formerly

merly been her aversion, Ellinor by perseverance, and her judicious choice of them, had induced her first to listen to, and then by an easy and almost imperceptible transition, to become fond of reading, as an amusement. This was to Sir James a great source of pleasure—books had been the chief solace of his life;—there was nothing he so much desired her to pursue as literature:—conceiving, that, those who felt no gratification in this delightful occupation, were actually objects of pity.

“What a loss,” he would say, “those must sustain, if only considered in the light of an amusement, who cannot in the hour of sickness and sorrow, beguile the woe fraught period with the works of some ingenious author!—When left by friends, who tired of the gloom of a sick chamber, and the querulous complaints of suffering humanity, fly to forget them; to a rout, concert, or opera, your books never forsake you!—they are companions with whom you may be

grave or gay : you can, without fear of offending, dismiss or recal them at pleasure : they instruct us by innumerable examples worthy of imitation, to live like philosophers, and die like christians ! by them we may acquire a competent knowledge of this world, and be enabled to prepare for a better."

Aided by such a companion and instructress, Sir James began to take pleasure in the improvement of his daughter, and to form hopes of seeing her all he wished ; he evinced his gratitude by handsome presents to Ellinor, and this pleasing change appeared to renovate his depressed spirits : he associated more with his family than he had done for many years, often attended them to public places of amusement, (a most uncommon circumstance, that excited the curiosity of the idle and malevolent—who were on the rack to discover the motive of this sudden change of conduct). One wit observed, that, " like Prospero, he had buried his wand, and burned his books ;"—another supposed,

posed, "the Baronet had emerged from obscurity to get a husband for his daughter."

"I will bet an hundred guineas to five," said the Duke of Southernwood, "that I name the *only* thing which could bring the tortoise out of his shell!"

"Done! done!" cried Sir Harry Hurry; "I'll take your bet, that you don't name it for this twelvemonth to come."

"I'll double the odds, that it names itself in nine months," said Lady Wou'dbe'wit.

"Oh! you satirical creature!" replied his grace: "You have blown all up, have lost me my wager, and deprived me of all credit in finding out the secret:—for every body will now guess it is a fine girl that has roused him from his state of apathy, for he constantly goes about in her company, to prevent any other person from making love to her. Faith, he is right;—there's nothing worth living for, but woman:

"Lovely woman! Nature made you

"To temper man—we had been brutes without you!"

He

He then began dancing and finging,

“ Lovely Thais sits beside you,

“ Take the good the gods provide you.”

“ Oh! I begin to understand you,” cried Sir Harry, “ you think it is the pretty companion of the daughter that has occasioned this surprizing revolution in the father. I wonder who she is, or where her little ladyship picked her up? She is devilish handsome, and I think has a great deal of blood; but she carries it with a high hand, for the other evening, at Lady Di Daudle’s, I began to rattle in my way, when drawing up her head like a swan, she told me, she imagined that I forgot where I was, and to whom I was addressing my conversation. She then walked away, and leant upon the back of Lady Lavington’s chair; I followed, and hoped she was not offended: what does your ladyship think was her answer? ‘ that she never allowed herself to feel anger for an object that only merited contempt!’—I sneaked off, and fear I looked cursed foolish.”

“ I dare

“ I dare say you did,” replied her ladyship ; “ for I do not think it was in your power to look otherwise. I like the girl for her spirit, and think she served you very right.”

We have recited this trifling discourse, to shew the malignancy and folly that guide the actions, and form what is called the conversation in the great world.

Ellinor, unacquainted with the cruel sarcasms thrown out against her, thought herself very happily situated. She went every where with the family ; and wherever she appeared, was beheld with admiration by one sex, and of course treated with cold civility by the other. She was ogled at the Opera, and followed at Ranelagh ; in short she was the fashion of the day, to which the constant attendance of Campley had not a little contributed ;—as he had established himself as a perfect connoisseur in beauty, the fops
of

of his acquaintance thought that to admire where he did, must be right.

By this system is the spot of a world we inhabit guided in their opinions by a *set* of persons, who give the fashion to the multitude. Not one out of an hundred that form the mass of mankind, has any power of discrimination or judgment of his own: the *few* that are capable of thinking for themselves, are too indolent to be at the trouble; they are therefore content to look through the *eyes* of some bold pretender to taste and criticism; by his criterion merit is doomed to rise or fall.

We meet these self-created judges every where;—at auctions and exhibitions in the morning,—in the evening, at concerts, the theatres, the opera,—where we see a young candidate for public fame, or the author of a new piece in the utmost trepidation, for the opinion of this dictator; while the audience are in eager expectation to judge by his exclamations of brava, bravo, bravissimo,—whether they are to be
charmed,

charmed, and applaud,— or, by his supercilious smile of contempt, or the significant shrug of his shoulders, are to *condemn*.

But let us attend him from the theatre to the *converzatione* of some writing woman of fashion, where they set in judgment on the works of a poor devil of an author, whose modest merit dire necessity has compelled to emerge from obscurity, to seek patronage, with no other title to public favour, than learning, sense, and wit; and as those are claims not of any *use* to the candidates for their approbation, he is immediately condemned to oblivion, or declared fit only to singe the *fowl*, of which he must not hope to partake, by the fiat of this hypercritic.—Ignorance and fashion have joined to give these *ephemera* consequence, and they will retain it, whilst we are too indolent to see through our eyes, to hear with our ears, or give ourselves the trouble to investigate real merit; for do we not sacrifice to the varying goddess of *fashion*, our comforts in this life, and
our

our hopes of hereafter? We read books it is the *fashion* to admire,—not those that would improve our heads, or mend our hearts ;—we run from one idle amusement to another—from an opera to a puppet-show, because it is the *fashion* ! we visit women that we ought to despise, and allow men to visit us that prudence bids us shun, because every body does so, and it is the *fashion* ! we marry men that we neither love nor esteem, because they are *fashionable* ! and ere the twelve-month elapses, we make work for Doctors' Commons, by admitting to our arms the bosom friend of our husbands, because this sort of notoriety is the very zenith of *fashion* ! and as we flatter ourselves that this work will be insignificant enough to merit the approbation of the *tonish* critics, we hope to gain celebrity, by being—the *fashion*.

Howard was now a constant visitor at Sir James Lavington's, and a great favourite of that gentleman ; was admitted to all the domestic parties ; accompanied the ladies in
their

their little concerts with his violoncello ; read to them whilst they worked at their frames, or took a hand at whist or casino.

Campley gave them all the time and attention he could spare from his new city connections, and his numerous engagements among his more fashionable friends in the west :—He attended them to public places ; called upon them for a morning lounge ; never let an opportunity pass, to vow how much he was devoted to Ellinor ; to alternately pity and ridicule the life she condemned herself to endure in her present situation. She had hitherto avoided this sort of conversation, by joining her party as soon as she could escape—or treating it as mere *badi-nage*.

Chance one day favoured his designs : he met her alone in the drawing room, and eagerly availing himself of the opportunity, told her he adored her ; that he gloried in his chains, and she might command his fortune ;

tune ; that he sighed for the honour of enabling her to appear with that splendour in the world, to which her beauty and superior talents gave her every pretension.

Ellinor transfixed with astonishment at his insolence, in daring to make her an avowal of intentions that could not be misunderstood, and to shock her ears with proposals only fit for the votaries of vice, with much indignation told him, she knew not on what part of her conduct he could ground a hope of success ; for she neither loved nor feared him, the sole motives that had hitherto rendered him too successful with her sex. Her former contempt of his character was, by his present behaviour, heightened by detestation, that she was determined to acquaint Sir James Lavington with the affront she had received while under his protection, which would be the most effectual way to prevent its repetition.

“ Ah ! do, my dear inexorable angel, call forth your old champion ; array him for the field

field—buckle on his armour—fix on his helmet with the vizor up—he will be no bad representative of the Knight of the *Woeful Countenance* ; will make as formidable an attack on windmills, and protect the chastity of distressed damsels, with as much prowess and true chivalry, as the hero of Cervantes. I have not the least doubt, but as the world have already dubbed him your *chosen protector*, when you have armed him *cap a pie*, he will in your cause perform deeds of wondrous valour; but do not forget the *etiquette* of presenting him with a scarf, worked by your own fair hands, that is to give him courage to defend you ; and me, when I behold it displayed, rage to conquer or die.—Apropos, my dear Ellinor,” taking up a sash just out of the frame, “ here it is, ready to be tied round your favoured knight : well, fair lady, since you are determined for slaughter, I must go and send my trusty ’Squire, Le Neuf, to borrow a suit of my ancestor’s old armour, that has peacefully reposed for three generations, under the stag’s horns in my brother’s

brother's hall; which, as soon as it can be scowered and made fit for combat, I will then send my dwarf to acquaint your antediluvian champion, that I am ready to have the honour to run a tilt and break a lance with him, for the love I bear the peerless queen of smiles, the all-conquering Ellinor, who is to be the bright reward of the victor: So, adieu, light of mine eyes, I go to prepare for death or conquest."

Having finished this provoking rhapsody, he made her a bow with all the formality of one of Queen Ann's courtiers, ringing the bell himself for a servant to let him out—flew down stairs, leaving Ellinor in doubt by which she was most hurt,—the insolence of his address, or the laughable irony with which he treated her threats of complaining to Sir James.

She retired to her room,—where, having eased her heart by a flood of tears, she felt the relief they ever give to
the

the overcharged bosom; determining not to be again insulted by Campley's offers of protection, she ruminated how to avoid it: she feared to inform Sir James of his treatment of her, and the ludicrous contempt he had shewn for him; well assured that he would come forward as her protector, she knew not what serious consequences might result from his interference, to a life that ought to be precious to all who valued worth: must not her own character suffer when such a fracas came to be talked of, as the scandal of the day? through the invidious representations of the fashionable circles, where Campley would tell his own tale, and render her an object of ridicule, who was already one of envy.

Was she to acquaint Howard with it, she was certain he would defend her from Campley's insults; but the same, or worse consequences might be the result of such an application; for Ellinor had long been convinced, though he had never told her so directly, that

that a passion still more ardent than friendship attached him to her. She felt for him the highest esteem, the utmost gratitude; respected his character, but she was not in *love*: she was happy that he addressed her only as a friend and a brother;—she was certain, from the character she had heard of his uncle, that *he* would never consent to his nephew's marrying her; had she been even romantically attached, she would not have allowed the man of *her* choice to disoblige his nearest relative, to bring upon himself poverty and self-reproach, by making her his wife: as she saw it in the cool light of reason, she could not have had the excuse made by the pupils of folly, of being precipitated into indiscretion by the violence of passion.

Ellinor therefore prudently resolved to complain to neither of these gentlemen of the affront she had received from Campley; but determined studiously to avoid being left alone with him, or to give him an opportunity

portunity of addressing her but in company, and on general topics; and she flattered herself with being able to execute this plan, as she found it was customary for the Lavingtons to leave London immediately after the birth-day. It was now May; she therefore conceived it would be very easy to avoid her tormentor without appearing particular, as it was whispered his matrimonial engagements were in great forwardness; she hoped he would become a husband long before her return to the metropolis,—an event that she supposed would relieve her from his importunities.

She had not yet been informed, that both sexes in high life marry to enjoy their freedom in a greater latitude; to throw off the yoke of restraint,—not to feel its trammels. That there are men who, to serve their *interest*, will act the pander to their wife's vices; and *wives*, who, to shew *their gratitude*, will return the obligation, by receiving into their houses, and into their bosoms,

the favourite mistresses of their husbands; and those examples are to be met amongst characters placed in so exalted a sphere of life, that the middle ranks dare not look up to, or censure, did not their infamy degrade them to the level of the lowest; yet such women are smiled upon, carressed, and permitted to appear in a circle where the best of wives and mothers presides; and these men are most graciously received—have honours and emoluments heaped on them by the best of husbands and fathers.

From such exalted characters, we are naturally led to expect that virtue should be rewarded, and vice punished; but that it should be *vice versa*, is an enigma that must be left to time to develope

CHAP. XV.

ELLINOR having determined how to conduct herself in respect to Campley, joined a party in the drawing room with tolerable composure ; where she found assembled Lady Di Daudle, Lady Fanny Flutter, Lord Torpedo, son of the Earl of Ennui, who was soon to be honoured with the fair hand of Lady Di, to give him a legal title to *yawn* through life with her ; for they were both too far gone in the langours of lassitude, to take the trouble even to make a fashionable divorce ;

“ For design, or chance, make others wive,

“ But nature did this match contrive.”

Added to these was Sir Harry Hurry, whose inclinations were never stationary for ten minutes together: at present they fluctuated between the bright eyes of Ellinor, the fortune of Miss Lavington, and the nobility of Lady Fanny. But the aristocratical notions he had imbibed from his mother, fixed his wavering inclinations to her ladyship. Lady Hurry was the unportioned daughter of a Scotch peer, who, with the wary maxims of her country, had condescended to accept the hand of his father, for the substantial benefit of a good jointure. He was an honest fox-hunting 'Squire, who one day, on her talking in rather a high strain of her condescension, in giving herself to a simple baronet, told her, that he thought she had a very good *bargain*; if she weighed Scotch nobility against English acres, it would soon be seen which was most ponderous.

"I ken your meaning right weel, Sir Harry; but do you reckon nothing for the *blude*?"

"I tell

“ I tell you, Lady Hurry, I never cared a button for the blood, or pedigree of any thing but a race-horse.”

The party were soon joined by Howard ; and it was proposed in the evening to take their tea at Ranelagh : this received the approbation of the younger part of the company, and even Sir James was prevailed upon to go with them. It was what is called a very *good* night ; that is, it was so crowded that there was no walking, nor any possibility of getting a box to sit down : they were obliged, therefore, to keep trotting round this gay circle, like a horse in a mill, fatigued to death, suffocated with heat, the steams of hot water, and annoyed by the smell of the tea-kettle lamps, till they were almost exhausted.

The gentlemen had been making all possible efforts to procure a box, but hitherto without success, when Howard proposed, as the only chance left, to keep centinel at one till it became vacant, and then take possession

possession, till the rest of the party could be collected together; for they had, soon after their entrance, been divided by the great concourse of company. This being agreed to, he took his post on the outside of one that appeared to be guarded within by an old gentleman in a full trimmed crimson coat, an embroidered satin waistcoat, with a large bag suspended from his well-powdered wig, and a gold-headed cane hanging on his wrist. He seemed to be a *fix-ture*; and from the entreating looks of the ladies, directed, at every turn they made, to Howard, he began to grow impatient to unkennel the old fox; he therefore civilly requested to be informed if he meant soon to resign his box, as he was deputed by some ladies to procure one for them, who had not been enabled to sit down for the evening.

“Why, Sir, for the matter of that, I have gotten some ladies here too, though I believe they are lost in the crowd; but Mary does not mind her father, as I suppose the Colonel be introducing her to some of his
quality

quality relations and friends, and all that there : if they don't come soon, I shall go try if I can find them ; but I am afraid that I shall lose myself,—it is such a round-a-bout place, I may be following them all night, and we may never meet till doomsday."

Howard could not make out from his dress and conversation, who or what he was, but supposed him to be some citizen, who was like a fish out of his element ; and willing to be rid of him at any rate, said,—the only way to find his party was to begin his *promenade* from the entrance door ; if he did not find them by the time he arrived at it again, then to turn the other way, and if they were not gone home, they must inevitably meet.

" Lord, Sir, I am mightily obliged to you ; I should never have thought of *facing about*, as the Colonel calls it."

" I am sure," grumbled the waiter, " it is time you should move ; for you have eat
K 4 a dozen

a dozen rolls, and kept out half a dozen parties, and you have just offered me three-pence for my attendance ; but you may keep your copper to pay turnpikes."

"What's that you are saying, you impudent fellow ? I never gives but two-pence to the waiters at White Conduit House, and there I have hot-rolls and cream, instead of your chalk and water, and all that there."

This altercation, which was carried on in a loud key, began to attract the notice of the passing crowd ; when that moment came up the gay Colonel Campley, with a very large, fat, vulgar looking woman, dressed in as many colours as a cockatoo, and a pair of young ones, more modern, but equally fine, displaying their feathers to the best advantage.

At sight of Howard, Campley changed colour, evidently ashamed of his company ; but his mortification was extreme, when the man of crimson addressed him, with,

"Oh I be glad you be come, Colonel ; I was just going to seek you, as this here gentleman

tleman *as* been so kind as to give me directions, that I might not lose myself; besides this fellow *as* been very saucy, because I offered him threepence for waiting."

The assembled listeners now fell into violent fits of laughter; and some of the young bucks, began expressing what pleasure they should take in "*quizzing old red and gold*:" One said he was a quack-doctor; another declared that he would bet an hundred pounds that he was a trading Justice, for he remembered his face when he made him pay five guineas smart money to an old watchman, for breaking his head with a lanthorn: a third said, he would double the bet, that he had been Sheriff, and that was the very identical coat and wig, that he had sported at the Lord Mayor's feast.

"Take their bets, Colonel, take their bets," roared out the cause of this mirth; "for I made up this *here* suit for my Lady Mayoress's Easter ball."

Reiterated peals of laughter now shook the rotunda; for the desire to join in the fun, made those re-echo it, that were not able to get near enough to know what they laughed at.

During this terrible scene of notoriety, Campley looked white with vexation, and shook with passion;—what could he do? he could not call out half the young puppies in the room; neither did he wish to expose himself still more, by becoming the champion of his companion.

The elder lady now took up the cause, saying,—it was a burning shame, that in a place they called *gintee* and *helegant*, they should go to affront a City Alderman, and a Colonel in the Train Bands; that *as farv-ed* Sheriff,—and whom the King, God bless him, had made a Knight,—and what was better still, he was worth two hundred thousand pounds; and she concluded by insisting all *them* faucy sneering *fellers* should be sent to the watch-house.

The

The young ladies, ashamed of their company, mortified at the sneers of the women, and the rude laughter of the men, entreated that they might return home directly. This motion was heartily seconded by the Colonel; but it was easier proposed than accomplished; for so ridiculous a scene not often occurring at Ranelagh, those who were near enough to be spectators of it, were unwilling to forego the sport they experienced, and crowded round, encouraging by every means in their power the fat lady to continue her oratory.

The farce now began to grow tragic;—the youngest of the ladies fainted, and Campley eagerly embraced this opportunity for them to make their escape, entreated Howard, in a whisper to lend his assistance in extricating him from his present difficulties; vowing, he would be crucified if ever he put it in the power of that jade Fortune, to play him such another trick.

An Englishman, always pays attention to a woman in distress, if his mirth is ever so

much spoiled by doing so : the crowd therefore made a lane for the party to pass, and the fainting lady was conveyed by Howard to one of the waiting rooms. In their way to it, he met Lady Fanny and Ellinor, whose assistance he requested ; they followed, and Ellinor by volatiles and water restored her to life. As soon as she recovered and began to return thanks, Ellinor thought her face was familiar to her ; but before she had power to recollect where, or when, she had seen it, Campley made his appearance,—and the old lady exclaimed, “ Oh you are a very gallant *loveyear* to leave my *darter* in a fit, and to take no care at all of her ; had it not been for that civil gentleman, and those good natured *young bodies* as helped her, she might have dropped down in the room for what you cared.”

Lady Fanny, who clearly understood the business, from this angry speech, gratified her love of mischief, and added to Camp-ey's chagrin, by saying, “ You are vastly
right,

favour! The carriages being now announced, the ladies were handed in, the crest-fallen Colonel not chusing to return into the rotunda, to stand the sneers and laughter of his acquaintance, flung himself into his chariot.

Howard attended Lady Fanny and Ellinor to their friends, who had by this time procured a box, and had sent Sir Harry to seek them, whom they met running his head, glass-in-hand, into every body's face. The mortification of Campley, and the comments on the tramontanes that composed his party, gave them sufficient subject of conversation for the remainder of the evening;—all rejoiced at, none commiserated, his distress.

The Ranelagh story became the general topic of the *haut ton*—Campley, whose ironical wit would not have spared any of his acquaintance in similar circumstances, was now repaid with interest all his former sarcasms—those who had dreaded his wit, enjoyed his

his vexation;—and, like the ass in the fable, *they* kicked at the dying lion, that in his day of power would have trembled at his *roar*. Some wrote epigrams and lampoons, and those who could not write themselves, paid hireling scribblers, to fabricate ridiculous paragraphs for the morning prints.

These were served up every day at the tea tables of his rejoicing friends; this scandal kept its station for the nine days allotted to wonder, when it was totally forgot in the more exquisite fun, of a tonish youth being the father of a child by a woman old enough to be his *grandmother*—or, the yet more astonishing circumstance, of a handsome and accomplished young man putting a pistol to his head, for no *other reason* than having contracted debts beyond his ability to discharge. Yet such are the occupations, pleasures, pursuits, vices, and follies of the great, whom the middle ranks are emulous to imitate, and the vulgar behold with envy,
but

but of whom wisdom is ashamed, and philosophy despises!—Let those then who are blessed with independence be grateful to Providence, for the only situation that can render them happy and respectable, for “the private station is the post of honour.”

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

ELLINOR felt the disgrace that Campley at present laboured under particularly fortunate for her, as it would prevent him from mixing in society, for the remainder of the time she stayed in London. Howard was their constant visitor, and encreased in favour with Sir James, who gave him an invitation to visit Avon Place in the course of his summer peregrinations; this he most gratefully accepted, as he promised himself pleasure without alloy through wandering the vallies; or inhaling health from the breezes of the heath clad hills, with Ellinor by his side—to hear her melodious voice—see the enchant-
ing

ing dimples that played round her mouth, when she smiled, and “drink delicious poison from her eye,” was to him the supreme of happiness.

While these rational and pleasing ideas occupied the imagination of Howard, very different were those that possessed the breast of Campley: determined like Lucifer to destroy the happiness he could not partake, he pondered on the ways and means, in the resolution to which he had devoted himself, after the celebrity he had acquired by his Ranelagh adventures; convinced he should never succeed in his views on Ellinor, without he could effect the removal of Howard, who watched her with the caution of a guardian angel, and whom love, instead of blinding, had rendered quick-sighted;—who, he was persuaded had warned *her* against *his* machinations.

He well knew that Howard's fortune was too much impaired by his good nature, and
abused

abused confidence, to enable him to marry a woman without one, in the life time of his uncle, who would never give his consent; and he was well aware that gentleman's pride, which was alone exceeded by his avarice, would never permit his heir to take a wife that could gratify neither of his favourite passions. This determined him to write an anonymous letter to the elder Mr. Howard, as from a friend to the honour of his family, to acquaint him with his nephew's present pursuits and future intentions, recommending it to him to exert his authority to save him from disgrace.

No sooner had Campley come to this determination, than he immediately executed it, by writing a letter, which, to prevent his being known as the author, he sent to be copied by a poor unfortunate garreteer, whom he often employed as the agent of his satirical malice to write against these women who refused him their favours; intimating that he was well with
them

them, and that a certain fashionable Colonel and Lady ——— were about to make work for the Civilians of Doctors' Commons, thus gratifying at once his vanity and revenge.

We are at a period of the world, when its inhabitants may be classed under the respective heads of good, bad, and indifferent. The first may be divided into the active and the indolent; the former are a real blessing to society; they relieve the wretched, support the oppressed, and justify the innocent:—whilst the latter are prevented by lassitude from exerting themselves to drag *truth* from the bottom of the well where she is said to take up her abode—seldom visiting those who laugh at her obsolete maxims, and treat her with so little attention, that the few beings who know her value, are apprehensive that she will soon banish herself altogether—abdicating her sovereignty to her sister *falsehood*, who has long received the homage of her ungrateful subjects.—

Nothing

Nothing but a thorough revolution in our minds and manners, can restore to us the blessing of *truth*!

Of the second order of society, the bad, which are by far the most numerous, they take a malevolent satisfaction in hearing, believing, and promulgating, every evil report raised by envy against the good and virtuous, that can level them to their own standard; hence the encouragement given to those scandalous reports, that inflict a pang on the heart of the husband and the father—the scurrilous pamphlets daily issuing from the press, propagating the lie of the day, which “strut and fret their hour upon the town, and then are heard no more.” From the encouragement of the malevolent pours forth that horde of *Baviads* and *Mæviads*, who overrun and destroy literature—who, with daring effrontery, equalled only by their imbecility, attempt to impose on public opinion by their crude attempts at drawing characters

characters too difficult for their shallow powers to delineate.

It is envy of the world's approbation, and private worth, that rouses these obscene harpies to poison merit with their filth!—Hence springs their acrimonious attacks upon follies they themselves are in the constant habit of committing, blindly thinking that by overloading cotemporary authors, they can lighten their own burthen—that the world will forget their transgressions and ignorance in their virulent abuse of others.

The third and last order that composes this way-faring world, is the indifferent:—we only use that word in respect to others, for to what concerns their *own* interest they are tremblingly alive—let but dear self be happy, and the misery of this earth, and its inhabitants, will not move a muscle of their countenance—let empires fall or rise, their friends die, or marry—it is all the same to these non-entities. They are better described

ed by Prior in the following lines than we can do in volumes :

“ No man’s defects sought they to know,

“ So never made themselves a foe;

“ No man’s good deeds did they commend,

“ So never raised themselves a friend.”

As we trust the foregoing digression will not be totally useless to our readers, we do not apologise for making it, but shall go on with the following letter :

To CHARLES HOWARD, Esq.

“ SIR,

“ A sincere friend to your family takes this method of acquainting you, that your nephew has lately attached himself to a young woman, just taken from a convent by Lady Lavington, as a companion to her daughter. It is not known to whom she belongs, but you may be assured that she is entirely destitute of fortune, nor has she even a remote prospect of independence.

“ Mr. Howard passes the greatest part of his time in her company :—she is a specious and designing girl; and, by a semblance of virtues to which she is a stranger, has infatuated him to such a degree, that without the interposition of your authority, he will certainly marry her. With his merit and respectable connections, and the presumptive heir to your splendid fortune, he has an undoubted right to an alliance with a lady whose consequence and expectancies are equal, if not superior, to his own.

“ To prevent, if possible, this ill-assorted match, is the disinterested view that guides the writer of this letter;—all he requests, in return for his good intention is, that you will neither shew it to your nephew, nor inform him of the method by which you have been made acquainted with his predilection for Miss Harcourt.

“ The best advice I can offer, is to divide him as soon as possible from the object
of

of his passion. Absence and change of objects being the best medicines for a mind diseased. The good sense and judgment you so eminently possess, will direct you how to act: and that all your endeavours may be attended with success, is the wish of your friend,

“ INCOGNITO.”

As soon as the elder Mr. Howard received this letter, so artfully contrived to alarm him, for the supposed dangerous situation of his nephew, he began to reflect, when his indignation permitted him to exert his reasoning faculties, in what manner he should avail himself of the information he had received, to divide him from this syren that was charming him to his ruin. He thought that if he communicated the intelligence he had received, and he had given a promise of marriage, it would only hasten an event, he wished to hinder; for though he had ever found Howard dutiful and affectionate towards him, yet was he roman-

tically attached to the performance of a promise when made ;—and, where love pleaded in addition to the claims of honour, he would feel himself doubly called upon to persevere.

The old gentleman thought a small stratagem would be allowable to snatch his darling nephew from what the cold prudence of age deemed ruin ; he had for some years been troubled with an asthmatic complaint, which had increased very much during the last winter :—for this disease his physicians had recommended a warmer climate. Howard, who really felt for him the affection of a son, had often urged him to make the trial, but hitherto without effect. The disinclination those advanced in life generally feel to leave their household gods, to be obliged to take up new habits, and to form fresh connections, had even prevailed over the love of life, and the wish of prolonged existence, which beyond a doubt is, for wise purposes

purposes implanted in all that are animated by the breath of existence.

Howard, who was a citizen of the world in the truest acceptation of the term, had for some years past wished to see Italy, and was particularly anxious to wander over the ruins of what once was Liberty and Rome!—to visit the abode of those who, with vivid enthusiasm, freely bled, and died to preserve her freedom!—to tread the classic ground of the capitol, where Brutus stabbed his friend and benefactor to preserve his country!—where Seneca taught, by his precepts how to live; by his example, how a philosopher should die! In his mind's eye to behold a Tully from the rostrum rousing the passions of his audience by the united powers of sense and flowing elocution; and addressing himself to the hearts of his admiring auditors!

For such rational gratification he had offered to attend his uncle, on his first inten-

tion of visiting Italy ; at that period all places were to him the same, for he had not then seen Ellinor. To make this excursion directly, was the determined resolution of the elder Mr. Howard, urging his precarious state of health as a motive, and claiming his nephew's promised attendance. That he might not throw any obstacle in the way, he began directly giving orders to his housekeeper and butler, how they were to act in his absence, and to his coach-maker to have his travelling carriage prepared for a long journey.

When things were in this state of forwardness, he sent for his nephew, who little dreaming of the fate suspending over him was indulging himself in a pleasing reverie, anticipating the delightful summer he expected to pass at Avon Place, in the society of such a man as Sir James Lavington, and with a woman like Ellinor, in whom sense and beauty were united.

Sorrow

Sorrow is said to tread close on the heels of joy; this was truly felt by Howard, who was tranfixed with surprize, when his uncle acquainted him, that he found his complaints increased so fast, that he had determined by the advice of Dr. W—— to try the efficacy of a southern climate, adding, “ my dear Harry, as I know you have no particular reason to stay in England, and have long expressed a desire to travel, having ever been as dutiful and kind to me, as to a father; for these reasons I have looked upon you in the light of a son, and for your emolument have remained single, therefore I do not allow myself to doubt, but that you will cheerfully attend me, and not leave me the victim of sickness, perhaps of death, in a strange land, with none but hirelings to close my eyes.”

During this speech, he kept a fixed look on Henry, and plainly saw in his expressive countenance, surprize, sorrow, and mortification, mingled with affectionate tenderness. His uncle was well aware that

this address was well calculated to rouse his sensibility. After a struggle, Howard told him, that he was much astonished at his hasty determination; but, more grieved at the occasion, as he thought he had not seen him look better for many years, and had flattered himself that he was so, but he undoubtedly must be the best judge of his own feelings. If he was determined to take so long a journey at his advanced period of life, he certainly felt it both his duty and inclination to attend him, though he was engaged to spend a part of the summer at Avon Place, the seat of Sir James Lavington, from whose superiour understanding and acquirements, he anticipated the highest gratification.

His uncle smiled inwardly, but said nothing that could induce Henry to think he was at all acquainted with his motives for wishing to visit Avon Place, or his regret at this sudden disappointment: he told him, that he took very kindly this ready acquiescence;

cence; that he should not be a loser by his attention; he should expect him to be ready to depart by that day week, and desired he would make his preparations directly.

Henry replied, "it would be impossible for him to go so soon."

"Why not?—I am now ready, and could set off in two days; I only wait for you: bid adieu to your friends by cards. I have taken all the trouble on myself; you have nothing to do, but to order your pragmatical valet to pack up your clothes; mine are already prepared,—my travelling chaise is in order,—I have letters of credit from Sir Robert Herries, and of introduction from my friends to people of consequence at places where we shall make any stay. To prevent what detains most young men, want of money, take this paper;" putting into his hand a bill for two hundred pounds.

The appearance of a concerted plan now first struck Howard—his profuse generosity, so very *uncommon*, to induce him to hasten the preparations for his departure, convinced him there was more in this journey than pursuit of health, which was only made the pretext.

It instantly occurred to him, that some person had informed his uncle of his attachment to Ellinor; as he had never profest himself her lover, it must have arisen from mistrust, and he could think of no one, who would attempt thus seriously to injure him, but Campley. He repaired instantly to his lodgings, determined to tax him with his duplicity, and extort from him a confession of his motives. Thanking his uncle for his liberal present, and informing him he would be ready to attend him at the time appointed, he hurried to St. James's-street. On enquiring for the Honourable Colonel, he was informed that he had left town for a month; that his gentleman was
gone

gone with him, and they did not know to what place, as no directions were left.

Campley, to avoid this visit, which he wisely foresaw Howard would make, had made an excursion into the country; for he found by his emissaries, the letter he had sent, had all the effect he expected, and that the Howards were to leave England in a week.

He was now convinced that his conjectures were well founded, and that by Campley's means his uncle had gained the information that induced him to take this sudden journey. His honest heart was wrung at his friend's treachery, and the deception practised by his uncle to trepan him from England; he was convinced that when he departed, Campley would take advantage of his absence to get Ellinor into his power;—he trembled for the fate of this lovely and unprotected woman, when he should be at too great distance to be of any assistance to her.

These united reasons determined him what conduct to pursue, which would now differ from his first intentions, having originally designed to wait a more propitious moment, to disclose his sentiments to his adored Ellinor.

CHAP;

CHAP. XVII.

IN consequence of the resolution Howard had taken, he returned to his lodgings, wrote a note to Ellinor, entreating that she would honour him with half an hour's conversation, having something of the utmost consequence to communicate to her, being in a few days obliged to accompany his uncle to the continent, who having been ordered to travel for his health, had desired his attendance, a request with which he thought it his duty to comply.

Frank was dispatched with this letter, and ordered to wait for an answer; Howard descended to Mrs. Needham's parlour, to whom our readers will recollect having been

introduced in the early part of this work. He said, that he came to thank her for all her attentions, while he had been an inmate of her house, that he hoped she would soon let his apartments to her advantage, as he was going the next week to travel with his uncle, and his return to England would be very uncertain.

The good woman was most sincerely grieved to find that she was to lose so valuable a lodger, to whom she owed numerous obligations;—this she told him, while the genuine tears of gratitude bedewed her cheeks, adding, “go where you will, the prayers of those who were ready to perish will attend you,—whom your bounty has saved, whom your kindness has soothed!—May health and happiness accompany you, and may that misery you avert from others, never reach your own heart!”

These effusions of nature, were most grateful to the susceptible soul of Howard—

He

He thanked her for her good wishes; said she overrated his merits, but not his good intentions to serve her, which on his return she might command; and, if her apartments were then vacant, he would most certainly be again her lodger. Whether they were, or not, she assured him, that the first lord in the land should turn out for his accommodation.

The pretty Patty now entered, and was informed by her aunt of the very great loss they were about to experience, for Mr. Howard was going to travel into foreign parts. At this intelligence, the colour forsook her cheeks, and in faltering accents she enquired if Mr. Frank was to accompany his master? on being answered in the affirmative, and that they were to leave London in a week, she sunk down into a chair and fainted. Mrs. Needham was much frightened, and Howard, astonished and concerned at the apparent effect this intelligence had on the girl, whom he left to the care of her aunt, desiring

desiring that she would come to him, as soon as her niece was recovered.

He knew nothing of Frank's paying his addresses to Patty; but supposed that was the case, her disorder being evidently produced by hearing of his intended journey. Howard meant to enquire, how far the gay Mr. Frank had carried his devoirs?—Whether, like his betters, it was a flirtation, *pour passer le temps*: or, if he had made love to the girl in sober sadness?—for to see a woman *miserable*, and not try to alleviate that misery, was not in *his nature*.

While he was thus philanthropically employed, Mrs. Needham rushed into the room, throwing herself on her knees before him, exclaimed, “Oh, Sir! without your interference, me and mine are ruined for ever!—Oh! that vile, detestable Frank, that could think of being such a villain, with an example of goodness like your's before his eyes!”—Here a retrospect of the cause of her sorrows, threw her into an agony of grief.

Howard

Howard all astonishment, for, from her exclamations, he guessed the misfortune she alluded to, raised her from her suppliant posture, placing her in a chair, assured her if she would compose her agitated spirits, sufficiently to enable her to acquaint him with the extent of her troubles, he would exert himself to alleviate them.

After blessing and calling him her guardian angel, she thus addressed him,—“ I know, Sir, you do not like to hear of your good deeds, but I must recal to your remembrance one of the *many*; because it is to my present purpose. You must recollect about four years since, you one night returned from Ranelagh, and hearing me crying in the parlour, you was so good as to enquire, if you could be of any use to me: your condescending kindness emboldened me to acquaint you with the cause of my sorrow, which was occasioned by my fears of seeing my husband's brother and his whole family ruined, for having, to oblige a
friend,

friend, put his name to a bill, that was got into the hands of an advertising money lending jew, who had not given for it a third part of its value ; but the original drawer being absconded, my brother, who was a grocer, having some appearance of property, he had sent an execution into his house, and would not hear of any terms of accommodation ; but, like Shylock in the play, raved for his bond ; only, instead of contenting himself with a *pound of flesh*, he claimed the *whole body* ; which he threatened, if the debt and costs were not directly discharged, to confine in a prison, to the total destruction of his wife and children.

“ I could not help him, without expecting soon to share his fate ; for my husband was taken from me when I was about thirty, and was not able, from the income of a small place he enjoyed in one of the public offices, to leave me any thing for my support, but this house and furniture, by which I have been enabled to maintain myself decently, but
not

not to lay by any thing ; for I had, (before God of his goodness sent you under my roof,) great losses and crosses, by the wickedness of some fashionable young gentlemen, that were my lodgers ; who, not content with cheating me of what was due for my apartments, borrowed money out of my pocket, which they equally forgot to repay."

" Well, my good Mrs. Needham, but this is not to the purpose of your *present* troubles ; let us not resort to past sorrow, but exert ourselves to mitigate that of which you have *now* cause to complain."

" Oh Sir, you are an angel sent to speak comfort to me ; but you must excuse me, and let me finish my story in my own way."

Howard smiled assent, and she proceeded.

" When you heard this story, you bid me be comforted, and all would yet be well ; you took a direction to my brother's creditor, and though it was then two o'clock in the morning, you ordered yourself
to

to be awakened at seven ; when you went to this little Israelite, and tried to move him, by pointing out the mischief he would do to an innocent family, in persisting to demand the whole of the debt immediately ; but he who fed on the luxuries of the land, eat off plate, rolled in his carriage by the spoils gleaned from widows and orphans, he who laughed at the dupes of his knavery, when they attempted to seek redress, “ listened not to the voice of the charmer, charm he ever so wisely ;” he therefore told you, that you was much imposed on,—that my brother was as great rogue, as the other who had run away ; and that you was about to become the dupe of his falshood ; that he had given the full value for the bill,—and he had no doubt but they had divided the amount between them,—that it was a nefarious combination entered into by both, therefore he was determined, that the remaining rogue should pay the whole money.

“ You.

“ You told him, that you did not come there to hear an honest man traduced, but to try whether it was possible to melt his *callous* heart to pity ; you now saw the fallacy of such an expectation, and should, therefore, enable my brother to discharge the debt ; but that you would not leave *him*, without observing, that for some wise reason, that mortals could not fathom, such men as himself were permitted as a scourge in this world, for our follies and vices.

You returned and lent my brother a hundred pounds, and took his note for the money ; saying, he should repay it at his own time ; by which good and generous action you saved us all, and sure a blessing went with it, for ever since that time, his trade has encreased and flourished,—whatever he undertakes prospers : it was but last week, he told me, he had laid by fifty pounds towards discharging his debt to you ; and now when he thought all was going on well, what will he say to find himself miserable from a quarter he so little expected, as the loss of his

his darling daughter's *virtue*: Oh! it will deprive him of his senses, and break the hearts of my sister and myself; and sure I am, it will be the death of the poor unfortunate girl, who now lies in strong convulsions."

"Then why keep me, Mrs. Needham, to hear this story I am so well acquainted with, which I wish to forget, why rack me with impatience—prolong your own and your relations' misery by not coming to the point, and saying wherein I can be useful?"

"I beg your honour's pardon; I hope you are not angry;—but I will be what you call concise, and tell you, that about two years since, I took home my eldest niece to live with me,—a mighty pretty girl she was, and very good, I always thought, till this *fatal* day; for after you left us, and we brought her out of the fit, that the news of your going abroad threw her into, I tried to comfort her by saying, you might not stay long—that Frank and she were both young enough to wait—and it would be full soon for her to marry, two or three years hence;

hence ; for I thought Frank was courting her ; when she fell down, and clinging round my knees, said, if I would forgive her she would tell me *all* ; which I having comforted her, and promised to do, she informed me that he had deceived her under a promise of marriage ; that she was five months gone with child by the villain ; that she would never live to see her father's face ; nor do I think she will,—for poor thing, the recital of her woes has thrown her into fits again, in which I left her. If Sir, *you* cannot induce him to make her his wife, all her connections must partake her shame, and we shall never again be enabled to hold up our heads.”

“ Be assured, Mrs. Needham, I feel for your wrongs, and will do every thing in my power to persuade the author of them to make all the reparation he *now* can ; be secret in the business, that at least we may preserve the poor girl's reputation ; go comfort her, my good woman, and bid her hope

all that my friendship can effect for her service.

He now sat seriously down to consider what was to be done for the unfortunate Patty ; if Frank could be induced from the motives of fear or interest, to make her what is called an honest woman, by marrying her, the same libertine principle that led him to rob her of innocence, perhaps would induce him to neglect her for other women, if she was forced upon him. Thus does the licentious freedom of the age pervade all ranks of society : this man was a Campley in *his* line of life, and if his fortune had been as large, his vicious pursuits would have been as extensively pernicious.

Howard was grieving for the consequences of his servant's depravity, and reflecting upon the means of remedying them, whilst the fashionable masters of the present day would have laughed at such a circumstance as a good joke—have said Frank was a fellow

of spirit—enquire whither the girl was handsome, and rejoice in the idea that he would be an expert jackall to hunt down prey for his lordly protector.

Mr. Frank, unconscious of the bustle he had occasioned, returned with an answer from Ellinor, which contained her compliments, and that she should be glad to see Mr. Howard at him at tea that evening.

Howard desired this modern lover of a valet, to say how long he had lived with him. Seven years next midsummer, was his reply. His master told him, that he felt ashamed that it should be said, a man who had resided with him for that length of time, could be capable of acting the vile part he had done, to a young creature, whose only fault was having too great an affection for his person, and too much confidence in his promises ; that to gratify a momentary passion, he had robbed her of innocence, exposed her to the scorn of her own sex, and
the

the insults of his ; had thrown her from the protection of her parents upon an unfeeling world, who, instead of punishing the perpetrators of *this* crime, ever, by a strange *mistake*, persecute the deluded victim.

It has before been observed, that Howard was a disciple of Lavater, and whenever he addressed himself to the feelings, he watched the various changes of countenance of the person, on whom his discourse was intended to make an impression. By following his accustomed method on the present occasion, he flattered himself his auditor was not yet become callous to the sensations of remorse and shame, as his face frequently varied from the crimson blush of conscious guilt, to the pallid white of contrite repentance ; whilst his master painted in vivid colours, his vices and their consequences : Frank heard him in attentive silence, and tears of heart-rending anguish, and repentant sighs of bitter sorrow for the cruelty of his conduct, shewed that he was not a hardened sinner.

On

On these observations, Howard judged that he was truly sorry for his fault, and that he would be ready to do all in his power to remedy it. He now asked him what he had to say in justification of his crime, and how he meant to act in consequence of having committed it. Frank, who thought he saw in his master's countenance Mercy holding the scales of Justice, soon gained courage to address him :

“ It is very true, Sir, that I have kept company with Miss Patty, almost from the first of her coming to live with her aunt, and I never had any thoughts but to marry her, as soon as I could save money enough to go into some business ; till one day that Colonel Campley's *vally de sham* came to drink tea with me, and I got her to make it for us.— He said she was, ‘ *true jolly and a chaming fill* ;’ and I told him, she was my sweetheart, and that I hoped soon to make her my wife.— He laughed at me—said, ‘ I was a fool to marry ;’ it was time enough ten years hence

to do that, when I could make my fortune ; that it was very well to pass an idle hour with a pretty girl, but to marry was injuring her and myself ; for *both* could do much better in taking their pleasures singly. I told him that I could never think of ruining the young woman, and making her miserable. He treated me with contempt, for what he called my preaching,—took me to his master's lodgings and detained me to supper with some of his friends, who were all as wicked as himself ; they made me drink so much wine, and pledge them in so many toasts, that I was, what they call, *half seas over*, when I returned to Pall Mall ; and just as I was going to take my leave, Le Neuf whispered me, I was in fit cue to try my fortune with *Madmosel* Patty—and it happened so unlucky, your honour, that she was waiting up for me alone, as the maid had gone to bed with the tooth ache, and Mrs. Needham had been on a visit to a friend in the country for some days ; so that the devil
tempted

tempted me, by putting into my head all the bad advice I had heard that night—and—and—God and your honour forgive me, but I thought Patty never looked so pretty—in short, that night ruined her, and made me miserable, because it made me a villain—and I have been truly sorry ever since. I was determined, when I found you was about to quit England, to confess the whole truth, had you not already been informed of it.

“ As I hope to be saved, Sir, this is the fact, and I am now ready to act any way for the best, that your goodness will be pleased to direct.”

Howard said he would consult with her aunt, and see what could be done; exhorting him to make Patty a good husband, and the first step towards enabling him to do so, would be, in future avoiding those profligate companions—by following whose advice, he had brought an innocent, and deserving girl,

girl, to shame and sorrow, and inflicted upon himself the pangs of perpetual remorse.

He now descended to the parlour, where he found Mrs. Needham alone, her niece having been put to bed; he communicated to her Frank's story, his repentance, and his readiness to marry Patty, and said the object now was to find some means of enabling them to live on food more substantial than love, for my taking him abroad with me is now quite out of the question.

"Oh! thou good angel," cried Mr. Needham, "the prayers of me and mine shall be daily and nightly offered up, that the blessings *you* enable *us* to enjoy, may be showered down upon *you*, a thousand fold."

"I thank you for your kind wishes—but first let me merit them. Tell me how you think they can be so settled, to ensure themselves, by honest industry, a decent competence? and I will endeavour to assist them."

"Why

“ Why, Sir, her father has prospered much in his business, ever since your bounty enabled him again to raise his head; and I dare say, would be glad to take Mr. Frank into partnership—he might soon learn the trade; and, as Patty is so young, she would do better under the eye of her mother, at least for some years to come;—she is a very notable woman, and will teach her to be a good housewife.”

“ This appears to me an eligible scheme,” replied Howard, “ but you must consult your brother, and enquire what sum of money he would expect Frank to bring into the firm? I do not counsel you to acquaint him with his daughter’s misfortune; only say, that she stole a wedding, and that her distress at hearing Frank was going to leave England, had prevailed on her to make you acquainted with what their mutual affection had induced them to do, without consulting you. You may also add, that when I was informed of this, I declined taking Frank with me, but wished to see them

them happily settled, before my departure; for which purpose I had requested you to inform him of what was now irremediable, and to consult together what could be done to promote their future interest.

“ In respect to the marriage, as the girl is not of age, you must get the bans published at some church removed to a considerable distance from all your acquaintance: they may there be married, and nobody will know that the ceremony did not take place six months ago. By this method, you will save her parents the shame and sorrow they inevitably would feel at her imprudence, and prevent them from commencing the relationship with an ill opinion of their future son-in-law, save your niece from the scornful glances and taunting reproaches of her female acquaintance, who may not have had her temptations to combat, and are therefore negatively virtuous. To-morrow morning I shall hope to see you and your brother, and to find all amicably adjusted.”

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

HOWARD felt a sincere gratification at contributing to the happiness of this poor family: though his own affairs wore a most gloomy aspect, he had determined on the conduct he would pursue in respect to Ellinor:—what that was, if our readers will attend him to Grosvenor-street, they will be informed. He repaired thither at eight o'clock, and was so fortunate as to find our heroine alone, she having, before his note arrived, excused herself from dining out with the family.

The tea making its *entrée* as soon as Howard, no conversation took place, but on the usual topics of the day, till the depar-

ture of the servants, when a total silence ensued for some minutes, which at last was broke by Ellinor's expressing the surprize she experienced on the receipt of his message that morning, which announced his departure from England so soon ; and her sorrow that it was occasioned by the illness of his uncle.— While she thus addressed him, he appeared lost in thought, though he viewed her with eyes beaming with love; but his cheek was not tinged with the flush of *hope*;—he had more of the desponding than the happy lover in his whole appearance.

She was struck with it;—when, finding him still silent, she lifted her eyes from her knotting; they met his fixed on her with such tender earnestness, that, blushing rosy red, she immediately withdrew them. After a pause, he said, “ dearest Miss Harcourt, I did myself the honour to solicit this interview, that I might speak to you on a subject nearest my *heart*—have I your permission to lay open

action, that my love has become enthusiastic adoration:

“ You even steal between my God and me !”

“ But as you appear to be as happily situated in the family of Sir James Lavington, as a state of dependence will admit, I should not have uttered this declaration at the present moment, wishing to have made myself an interest in your heart, before I dared venture to lay *mine* at your feet.—Circumstances that I am now going to acquaint you with, will, I trust, plead for my temerity in the gentle bosom of my fair judge: I have suffered too much by allowing the appearance of duplicity in my actions, to permit any such motive to induce me to adopt it in future;—nor will I attempt to impose on you virtues I do not possess.

“ Left early my own master, with a fortune that, with common prudence, was equal to all the comforts, and many of the luxuries of life—I was good natured, and desirous

to relieve the wants of suffering humanity, but too indolent to exert myself to prevent my being imposed on by the specious knave;—unpractised in deceit, I suspected none, and became an easy dupe to the artful and designing: in consequence, my fortune has been more injured by the vices of my friends than my own—without vanity, I think I may say,

“ I have been a Man more sinned against, than sinning.”

“ I was thus situated, when first I beheld the charming Ellinor;—I could not think of making you a sharer of my shattered fortunes, had you happily approved my passion—then it was that I felt the folly of my improvident conduct, for it had robbed me of the power to offer you an establishment, such as your beauty and merit so fitted you to adorn, and which it would have been my highest gratification to bestow. I still fostered the fond hope, that I might one day be enabled to share with you a fortune, more worthy your claims, and my wishes,

as my father's elder brother is still living : at his demise the family estate must be be mine, which is unincumbered, and has been much improved by its present possessor, whom, from being refused by the lady of his choice, has remained a batchelor, and accumulated a large funded property ; which, if I marry with his approbation, he has promised shall devolve to me.

“ As I avow to speak the whole truth, I must confess, I fear he would not estimate your qualifications, beauty and virtue, as equivalent to the thousands he expects my wife to possess. He is a very good man, but mistakes what would contribute to my happiness, as he wishes Plutus to conduct me to the Temple of Hymen, instead of Cupid.

“ I never did act in direct opposition to his will, and having but small hopes of making him a convert to my system ;—I did not, till some auspicious moment arrived, wish
to

to acquaint him of my prepossession in your favour—had he dealt candidly with me, I would still have avoided giving him pain; but, in a conference we had this morning, he gave me sufficient reasons to change my mind,—to see, that through the excuse of travelling for his health, he means to inveigle me from England. I shall attend him, because I think it a duty incumbent on me, for his care of my early youth; but I foresee much danger hovering over you.”

“ *Danger* to me, Mr. Howard! Of what nature?—who can think the poor Ellinor of consequence enough to become an object of persecution? Well! I am assured that my friends are confined to yourself, and this family; nor know I but *one* person, since I emerged from obscurity, from whom I have any thing to fear!”

“ And from that *one* person, dearest Ellinor, you have *every thing* to *dread*. I must yet entreat your patience for a few minutes, to explain the meaning of the assertion that has alarmed you:—I am convinced my uncle
has

has been informed of my affection for you by somebody who has an interest in getting me out of the way, to serve a sinister purpose;—this can be no other than *Campley*, who has long suspected my partiality, and being convinced his plans against you would have no chance of success, whilst fate permitted me to act as your guardian angel—to remove me from so enviable a situation, has by some dark arts, which I cannot as yet fathom, made my uncle acquainted with my predilection;—hence his hasty journey to the Continent: and he claims a promise, made long since, that I should accompany him.

“ But the deception he has practised in this business, has hastened the declaration, it was designed to prevent. I am convinced much mischief is meditating by that arch fiend *Campley*, which only waits for my absence to be put in execution. I cannot bear the idea of leaving you exposed to his insolent persecutions, when I am too far distant for my protection and friendship to be

be of any avail. It makes me truly wretched; for, if I am doomed to be rejected as your lover, you must suffer me to be your friend; and, under that sacred character, to guard your innocence from the designing, interested profligate.

“ These are the motives, charming Ellinor, that have given me courage to confess a passion, which must ever form a part of my existence;— but if I am so supremely happy as to find I have made an interest in your heart, and you will receive my hand, and deign to partake my humble fortune, I shall think myself the most blest of human beings! I am conscious that my presumption is great, to expect a lovely and accomplished woman, who is the subject of general admiration, will accept a man so much older than herself, who never had any pretensions to personal attractions, and with only the remains of a dissipated fortune.

“ On

“ On what then do I found my hopes of success?—On the virtues of your heart, on the strength of your understanding, so far beyond your years, that ever leads you to prefer mental to personal charms—to that humanity which ever finds its *own* gratification in the pleasure of conferring happiness on *others*? If then you will do me the honour to accept my offer, I mean to acquaint my uncle with it directly; if he sanctions my choice, it will be an addition to my joy—but, if he refuses his consent to what can alone form the *future* felicity of my life, I shall consider myself at liberty to make my own election. I never could think that even parents had any other right to interfere, than by giving advice, in so momentous a concern as marriage, from which the pleasures or sorrows of their childrens’ future existence must take their source.

“ Thus, most beloved of women,

“ I have a round unvarnish’d tale deliver’d!”

If

If your heart has not yet made its choice—if you feel no repugnance to the humble Howard, bless him with a consenting smile, and, by bestowing yourself, make him the most happy, as he must be the most envied of mortals, who will dedicate *his* life, to ward off care and sorrow from *yours*, and to procure you as much felicity as is permitted mortals in this state of trial!"—He now paused for her answer?

Ellinor, in whose breast the candid, manly, disinterested avowal of his passion had roused every grateful sensation, thus addressed him: "I thank you most sincerely, Mr. Howard, for the affection you have expressed for me, and most truly do I feel myself obliged by your honourable and generous intentions in my favour; for, have you not offered to make me your wife?—a stranger without fortune, friends, or family, or even a name, to which I have any legal pretensions?—Am I not doomed, by the authors of my unfortunate existence, to eat
the

the bitter bread of dependence? an alien from their arms, kindness, and protection, with a heart lacerated by the cruel retrospect of such a situation, what pleasure or happiness could you expect to derive from my society?—Yet this would be all I should have to offer you, in return for the numerous obligations you would heap upon me?

“ Was your uncle to consent that you should marry me? which I am well assured from his character, he never would, nor do I think he ought to allow the acknowledged heir of his family and fortune, to bring into that family the child of chance, of poverty, perhaps the offspring of guilt—for are not my parents ashamed to acknowledge me?—and by their conduct, do they not allow the latter supposition? how then can you avoid the just anger of your relations? what can you oppose to the scorn of the world? how excuse to your cooler judgment so improper a choice?—what but that you was charmed with my person, that your partiality gave me

me credit for mental perfections, that would not stand the scrutiny of dispassionate observers?

“ For such ideal advantages, you would forego all hopes of your uncle’s fortune, bring on yourself his everlasting displeasure; and most probably at his advanced age, contribute to shorten his life, by what he would call your undutiful conduct?—Oh! my dear friend, I know the goodness of your heart enough to be convinced that such an idea would ever make you miserable, even with your highly-favoured Ellinor. No happiness that you may flatter yourself to enjoy in her society, would be a compensation to a mind such as yours, for the consciousness of it having been obtained by a deviation from your duty. These being my sentiments, nothing could extenuate my conduct, if I allowed you to sacrifice your fortune, peace of mind, and the world’s opinion to the violence of a blind passion.

“ I see

“ I see your looks accuse me of fastidious prudence;— I will, with candour equal to your own, describe my sensations, and leave it to yourself to judge. I feel impressed with the most heartfelt gratitude for the honour of your preference, the sincerest esteem for your inestimable character;—I love you with the affection I should feel for a dear brother, was fate to give one to my arms, possessed of your merits; but I do not *love* you with a passion such as, you say, you feel for me, or I have heard others describe they have felt!—No, the sensation I experience for you is *friendship*, warm, sincere, and genuine, for it would enable me to rejoice at seeing you the happy husband of a woman equally worthy, who would reward your virtues, and might answer all the expectations of your family.

“ This then is not *love*; that is a selfish passion, seeking its own gratification, abjuring reason, and setting prudence at defiance, whilst friendship feels more pleasure in the
happiness

happinefs of the beloved object, than from any other confideration—it is lefs violent, but more permanent. This is the fenfation I experience for you; till I am convinced my heart is not capable of admitting a more vivid, and dangerous paffion, or till it has conquered fo formidable an enemy, I will not marry; but could you fet afide all the reafons I have urged to convince you that you ought only to think of me, as a friend and fifter—the uncertainty of who I am, or to whom related, would effectually prevent my marrying, for I never will become an inmate of any man's family, till I know my own. This has long been my determined refolution, from which no arguments can induce me to recede."

Poor Howard, who had, in filent forrow, liftened to the accents that pronounced his fate, as they fell from her ruby lips, was ftruck with the energy of her reasoning powers; though not converted by her arguments, he was ftaggered by them. He attempted

attempted to persuade her that she was misled by her disinterested principles, and was sacrificing the substance to the shadow.

She stopped him, observing all farther conversation on the subject was useless, she had candidly explained her motives for refusing the honour he intended her—had offered him her friendship, it was all she had to bestow;—she again proffered it to his acceptance, and held out her fair hand as a pledge of amity, which on his knees he received, devoutly pressing it to his throbbing heart, and imprinted on it kisses so fervent, that had more the warmth of the lover than was necessary to seal the bond of friendship, into which they had just entered.

Howard now reverted to his suspicions of Campley's intelligence having been the cause of his banishment—said he had been to his lodgings with a determination to call him to a severe account for his conduct in the affair, but to his great disappointment he

he had left town, nor could he discover to what place he had retired.

Ellinor rejoiced at this intelligence, as it prevented a quarrel, which had it taken place must have dragged her into the notoriety she detested, and made her the object of conversation to all the routs in town.—She hoped before Campley was again visible to be safe at Avon Place.

Howard told her, that as at present she would not allow him any other title than that of her friend, he hoped she would not refuse to grant a favour, that could not well be denied to one she honoured with that appellation?

“If it is a proper request, I will grant it cheerfully.”

“It is, dearest Ellinor, that you will allow me the pleasure of writing to you; and that you will sometimes condescend to let me hear from you, as I can never be completely

completely miserable, when I am informed that you are happy. You cannot surely cruelly refuse this request to a wretch banished from the presence of all for which he deems his life worth preserving—and robbed of the last comfort of the miserable—*hope*.”

“God knows,” said Ellinor, “that I would not willingly inflict a pang on your worthy heart;—on the contrary, I would do all within the pale of propriety to soften evils, of which I am supposed the cause.—I fear committing myself to the world’s censure; consider, that I stand in it alone, with no shield from its acrimony, but a correct attention to my conduct.”

“That God to whom you appeal, best knows the love and respect, which will ever prevent me from requesting you to do any thing that can be construed into impropriety of conduct. As friendship is to be the basis of our correspondence, no evil construction can be put on your indulgence.”

Ellinor,

Ellinor, who sincerely esteemed him, was grieved to see Howard so miserable, as her refusal appeared to make him, allowed herself to be prevailed upon to promise that she would receive his letters, and in her answers to continue her confidence, acquainting him with any changes, that fickle fortune might make in her situation.

He now appeared more at his ease, since he had persuaded her to correspond with him—like a true lover, flattering himself with delusive hopes that the blind alchymist, would yet befriend his votary, by transmuting friendship into love.

 CHAP. XIX.

THE return of the Lavingtons put an end to the conversation. Howard staid supper, and Sir James sincerely regretted the occasion that was to take him from England, and deprive him of the pleasure he had promised himself in his society at Avon Place; but requested he would give them as much of his company while he staid, as he could steal from his other friends; he offered him letters of introduction to families he had known, when on his travels, and with whom he had since kept up a correspondence.

When

When the young ladies retired to their apartments, Augusta asked Ellinor why she looked so melancholy?

“ I am not conscious of it, my dear friend, but to take leave of the most indifferent person always makes me serious, and Mr. Howard is so good a creature, so friendly and sensible, that I cannot help being sorry at the loss we shall experience, in not having him with us this summer.”

“ All this is mighty well, and very prettily expressed ; but confess the truth—has he not been avowing himself your lover, and swearing if you will not look on him with commiseration, your cruelty will occasion him to end his sorrows by most poetically hanging himself on one of the weeping willows, that droop so invitingly for the purpose at Avon Place?”

“ No: he is too sensible to feel any affection for a woman that could be gratified by the inflated language of romance, or frightened into compliance by such foolish threats.”

“Ellinor, you avoid giving me a direct answer, but I certainly am right in my conjectures. He looked so woe-begone, and sorrowful, on our entrance, that you must have refused his suit;—but how could he have the presumption, that is neither young nor handsome, to expect you that are both, to accept him?”

“He has pretensions far beyond my humble fortunes; I most sincerely wish him a better wife than I could make him—I will be contented with his friendship.”

“As you are not inclined to make me your confidant, you shall not be mine, nor shall I tell you all the fine things that were said to me this evening by a gay young baronet.”

“Allowing your accusation to be just,” replied Ellinor, “you ought to adhere to the christian system, and return good for evil.”

“Not I, upon my honour, fair Ellinor, so good night; I leave you to revolve on the
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the departure of your *cher ami*, the sentimental Howard!"

Augusta being much with Lady Fanny Flutter, had lately shewn a disposition to aspire to the dangerous character of a *wit*, but like her prototype, she substituted for it rude remarks, and pert volubility; neither of these ladies had any of the genuine signs of that much admired, coveted, and dreaded *gift*. We use the last word, because it is not to be acquired, it must be born with its possessor:

"Grow with our growth, and strengthen with our strength."

Diligent assiduity and steady perseverance may enable us to acquire every thing, except *wit*, that is a *natural* talent. The pointed question and the smart retort, those lively ebullitions of the sportive imagination, that relieve conversation from obtruse argument and deep speculation, by the brilliancy of their electric emanations; whose power is by

all acknowledged and felt. Genuine *wit* is exerted by its possessors to protect society from the languor of stupidity and the ponderosity of learning.

Lady Fanny and Augusta never felt it themselves, nor could appreciate its powers in others. There is no character that the great world are so ambitious of obtaining, as that of a *wit*—judgment, sense, and learning, in general, they seldom have, nor covet, but they eagerly seek the shrine of the sprightly goddess; not knowing her genuine attributes, they mistake the tinsel of *folly* for the bullion of sterling *wit*, and become the votaries of the former for life.

Ellinor saw, with distress of mind, that Miss Lavington was making hasty strides towards the temple of the false deity, by aspiring to a character for which nature never intended her, she would lose that by which she might render herself respectable. Ellinor had a natural tendency to what was so coveted

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ted by her friend—but it was not of that satirical sort that shines at the expence of the oppressed, the innocent, and the ignorant: it was a phosphoric flame, that vivified without scorching its object.

As soon as Howard arose in the morning, Mrs. Needham and her brother desired to be admitted; when the old lady was beginning her well meaning circumlocution, to express their gratitude and obligations, he told her the time he had to remain in England was, from its shortness, very precious, he could not therefore permit any of it to be wasted in compliments—begged they might come at once to business, and that they would acquaint him with the result of their consultations, on his proposal of yesterday respecting the young couple, to whom he wished to be of service.

Mr. Needham replied, that certainly he should have been better pleased if Patty had married a plain honest tradesman, instead

of a flashy fine gentleman;—but since it was past recal, he had forgiven them, and was willing to take him into partnership.

Frank was called, and asked by his master what money he had to begin the world with in his new character of a married man?

He said, “ he had saved one hundred and fifty pounds, and at the death of an aunt, he should possess a freehold estate of sixty pounds per annum in Surry; and she had promised to leave him her savings, which he supposed would be about three hundred pounds more.

“ You hear, Sir, what is your new son’s present fortune, and future expectations:—now what are you willing to give your daughter, as an equivalent?”

“ Sir, all I have been enabled to save is *yours*, and I think it incumbent on me to be just before I am generous.”

“ Well

“ Well then,” said Howard, “ I believe *that*, with the legal interest, amounts to one hundred and twenty pounds, which I present to your daughter, as a marriage portion. Here Frank is a bill that will make your moiety two hundred pounds; these sums will, I hope, enable you to commence business with some credit, which your industrious exertions will certainly increase, and I wish prosperity may attend your endeavours.

“ I hope, Mr. Needham, what I have done meets with your approbation?—Let me recommend it to you not to harbour any animosity against your son-in-law for having followed the dictates of love instead of duty, in marrying your daughter without asking your consent, as his prospects are so much better than you could expect to find them, and if I hear that he conducts himself properly, he shall never want a friend!”

Frank melted by his master's kindness, which conscience whispered him he did not *merit*, respectfully took his hand, which he kissed with honest warmth, while tears of gratitude rolled down his cheeks, vowing to act as he had pointed out to him, and to conduct himself so as to merit his future favours. Though but his humble dependant, the servant of his bounty, the susceptible soul of Howard could not see unmoved those genuine effusions of nature,

The sister and brother now retired, their eyes overflowing with those grateful effusions to which they were *forbid* to give utterance.

Thus did the worthy Howard, by his humane exertions, and the sum of one hundred and seventy pounds, save a beautiful girl from becoming a prey to prostitution, snatch a fellow creature from the fell gripe of dissolute and abandoned company, and all its consequent misery, by putting it in his power to become a good husband, a kind father,

father, and a useful member of society! restoring peace and comfort to a whole family, instead of employing that sum in the purchase of a race-horse, or paying it to Grey for fashionable trinkets to deck some venal beauty; losing it on a card at Mrs. Setall's, or on the cast of a die at Brooks's. Hear this ye nobles of the land!

"Go ye and do likewise."

As the time approached which was to divide Howard from the woman to whom he was truly and fondly attached, he was very miserable; when he reflected that

"Alps would soon rise between, and whole oceans roll to divide them."

it gave unutterable pangs to his over-charged heart. He did not leave her with the flattering hope, that at some future period, however distant, she would be his; it was true she had professed the highest esteem—had offered him her friendship; but had she not ingenuously confessed that she

did not *love* him!—That she could feel the tyrannic passion in all its force for some more fortunate man he was convinced by every line of her expressive countenance.—Had she not vowed she would never marry till restored to, and acknowledged by her parents?—even that event might take place before they met again!

Thus ingenious in tormenting himself, did his bosom, the seat of every virtue that could dignify humanity, become a prey to those corroding cares, that it had ever been the employment of his life and fortune to shield from his fellow mortals.

Ellinor was very far from being happy, though she did not experience that convulsive kind of passion, that is described as violent and coercive, shaking reason to her foundation, that impels its votaries to sacrifice the interest and happiness of the objects of their idolatry, for their own selfish gratification;—nor was she pining, sighing, faint-
ing,

ing, dying ; miserable herself, and the occasion of misery to others. In truth, she had none of uncle Toby's *signs* in her outward appearance ; for her attachment to Howard was friendship founded on the firm basis of gratitude, cemented by esteem for his many aimable qualities, and the estimable virtues of his heart.

This made her feel deep regret for his sudden departure ; she was convinced of the real loss his advice and protection would be should her present prospects be overclouded, which the observations she had made, since she entered the world, naturally led her to suppose might happen. He had been her first, her only *confidante*—she felt a sad *presentiment* that, 'ere they met again, misfortune would aim its shafts at her devoted head, but she determined to assume, if possible, the appearance of cheerfulness, to avoid the raillery of Augusta.

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The dreaded time of taking leave at length arrived, when Howard, after wishing Lady and Miss Lavington every happiness, wrung the friendly hand of Sir James, who most cordially returned the pressure;—he then advanced to Ellinor, who trembled as she arose, took both her hands in his, pressing them to his lips, and said, in tones almost too low to be heard articulately, his voice being lost in his exquisite feelings:

“May the choicest blessings of heaven be your’s, dearest Miss Harcourt; honour sometimes with a place in your remembrance the man who aspires to be called your *friend*.”

She made an effort to answer—the poignancy of her sensations precluded speech, but the tears that bathed the roses of her beautiful cheeks, spoke volumes to the heart of Howard, who not able to endure their attractive power, without betraying himself still more than he had done already, made a precipitate retreat.

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We must now take leave of our favourite, leave him to pursue his journey, and to balance his hopes and fears in respect to Ellinor; he allowed the former to preponderate, flattering himself that he was not indifferent to his fair enslaver from her visible emotions when they parted.

As Howard quitted the house, Ellinor feeling conscious that she attracted the notice of the company, retired to her own room: Augusta then addressing Lady Lavington said:

“ I really believe Ellinor is in love with Mr. Howard;—she must have a very odd taste, but in one sense it will be advantageous, nobody will attempt to rob her of so delectable lover—she may depend upon not meeting a rival.”

“ I am not assured,” said Sir James, “ that he is the object of her choice, for I never saw any signs of it till this night, and I should suppose to a heart susceptible as hers, those appearances from which you augur love might arise from friendship, at parting

parting from an object she esteemed. That he is ardently attached to her, has long been evident to me, and I sincerely pity him, for I know the avaricious views which guide his uncle; and that, in his opinion, no beauty or merit can counterbalance the want of fortune. If Ellinor really admires Howard, I agree with you, that her taste is indeed excentric, to prefer the beauties of the mind to those of the face, to accept the virtues of the heart, as a compensation for youth, are motives so widely different from those that actuate the conduct of the idle, weak, and vain young women of the present day,—that such an election must surprize *them*, because they have no standard within themselves to account for so strange a phenomenon."

Augusta who perfectly understood the irony of her father's speech, and that he was talking *at* her, and who began not to be well pleased at having Ellinor's perfections always brought forward for her to
copy,

copy, flounced out of the room, without attempting to answer.

Howard had quitted town but a few days, when Campley made a morning call in Grosvenor-street; but Ellinor left the drawing-room immediately as he entered it, determined not to remain in his company, if it was to be avoided—she feared being insulted by a renewal of his passion, and detested him for being the occasion of her friend's banishment.

The family were now busied in preparations for their departure from London, as the following week was fixed on for their removal to Avon Place. A few days previous to it, Ellinor walked out in the morning to take leave of some young ladies, that had been very attentive to her, who resided in Brook-street; as she passed through Grosvenor-square she met her cold-blooded guardian so direct, that she could not avoid her, which she appeared to meditate.

Ellinor

Ellinor had never seen or heard from her, since she resided with Lady Lavington—pleased at the *rencontre*, she addressed her with civil enquiries after her health, which was answered with her usual frigidity; but Ellinor seeing her about to depart, and fearing if she let pass the present opportunity, another might not soon occur, to make one more effort to provoke her to speak on the subject ever nearest her heart—she said,

“Madam, at what period of my life will you be induced to throw off the impenetrable veil that conceals from me those with whom I must be connected?—If they are determined no longer to maintain me, or are not able to do so, they can at least give me the satisfaction of knowing to whom I belong?—If secrecy is necessary to be observed, I will take the most solemn oath that can be dictated, that I will never attempt to claim them, or divulge who they are, without their previous consent. The more I see of the world, as my mind expands, the more miserable I am, from my
unpro-

unprotected situation—exposed by it to the scornful taunts of my own sex, and insulting offers from unprincipled men. Your cruel silence effectually prevents my marrying, as I have made a *vow*, which I will religiously keep, never to enter into any man's family, till I am made acquainted with the authors of my being."

"All this is mighty fine, Miss, and very romantic; but in simple truth I see nothing of which you have to complain—we will therefore take a review of the *cruelty* you so loudly deprecate, and it will then be seen with how much justice! You have been well educated, might have been settled for life, where none of those disagreeable attacks you so feelingly deplore could have reached you; but self-willed, as you ever were, you made your own election, and as I before told you, must now carve out your future fortune, even when you acted so opposite to the inclination and interest of those you ought to have obeyed. Instead of what you call, forsaking you, did they not provide

vide you a situation much superiour to what your conduct merited, where you experience every kindness, and share every advantage, that wealth and consequence give their own daughter! If you make a *proper* use of circumstances so much in your favour, you may avail yourself of them to catch some fool of fortune, that will give you that rank in society your proud heart so ardently sighs after, to which without such an event, depend upon it you have *no claims*.

“ As to your wishing to know who your parents are, from motives of affection and duty, it is an argument that has little weight with *me*, who can give no credit to the susceptibility of your feelings, for beings you never saw, most probably never will. To *quiet* these dutiful sensations, by which you are so violently oppressed, you have nothing to do, but to suppose they have long since ceased to exist, as depend upon it by them you will *never* be acknowledged.— If then you are determined to wilfully refuse
a good

a good establishment in marriage, on such novel-like principles as you have just avowed, the consequences of your folly must be its punishment."

The cutting coldness, and sarcastic speech of this obdurate woman, pierced poor Ellinor to the soul—convinced that every attempt to move her inexorable heart was time lost, she turned from her with contemptuous disgust, saying:

"A period would arrive when *her* heart, flinty as were the materials of which it was composed, would be wrung with deep contrition for the agony her cruel silence imposed; that, whatever the consequences were to *her* future life, she would be the *fatal* cause. She had a firm reliance on the omniscient creator, whose eye pervades the secrets of all hearts, that he would in his own time, and by means *she* could neither foresee nor prevent, restore her to the arms of those to whom she owed her existence."

While

While Ellinor thus prophesied, celestial hope and confidence beamed in her animated countenance, as she abruptly left her astonished companion, who appeared to be rivetted to the spot; while she measured back her steps to Grosvenor-street, being too much discomposed by the events of the morning, to make her intended visits.

CHAP,

CHAP. XX.

IN a few days the Lavington family left London; and without any

“Wonderful adventures, or hair-breadth ‘scapes,”

arrived in health and safety at Avon Place, where the tranquility of the surrounding scenes, and the keeping both her mind and body in constant employment soon enabled Ellinor to regain her native cheerfulness, and to obliterate the various disagreeable occurrences she had met with in the latter part of the time she had formed a part of the establishment at Sir James Lavington’s.

Their present residence had been the family mansion for time immemorial. The house, which was situated in the middle of a park through which the river Avon rolled, and from whence it took its name, had more of the useful than the beautiful in its composition;—its structure could claim no particular order of architecture, having been added to, or pulled down, as it suited the taste or the wants of its possessors.

Its present owner, in the early part of his life, intended following Major O'Flaherty's advice, and instead of mending it to build a new one, from a plan he had himself projected when in Italy. But, when forced on his return, into a marriage with his present lady, and all his long fostered ideas of enjoying domestic happiness in the society of the woman of his *choice*, in an elegant retirement, being totally destroyed, he sunk into a state of apathy for all worldly concerns requiring any bodily exertions;—his mind, naturally strong and energetic, he allowed
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to be lost in melancholy gloom and torpid inanity, the consequence of an early disappointment, and talents that might have graced his country were allowed to lay dormant, while he shut himself in his library, a miserable misanthrope lost to that world he was destined to adorn.

With a mind thus lacerated, to raise the edifice, to sink the hill, to plant or delve, was entirely out of the question for the first years of Sir James's marriage—how he might have roused himself had he been the father of a son, we know not; but when he found it was most likely that his property would descend to a female, who would in all probability marry, and prefer the residence of her husband's ancestors to her own, he was deterred from giving himself great trouble, and incurring immense expence, to enable an auctioneer, when it was brought to his hammer by the caprice or extravagance of his future son-in-law, to expatiate in the language of his *trade* on the taste of its late possessor,

(Sir James Lavington) who had lavished immense sums to rebuild the mansion to which he had the honour to call their attention—where the stability of the gothic was most happily blended with the lightness of corinthian architecture—uniting the *utile* with the *dulce*. Then describing the picturesque beauty of its situation, where hill and dale, wood and water, are most enchantingly commixt—speak in raptures of the salubrity of the air, promise a bird's eye view of the sublime and beautiful of the immense ocean, Isle of Wight, Needles, &c. which might be seen with a good telescope on a particular *clear* day from one of the *attics*.

To prevent the possessions of his ancestors being thus introduced to the world, he determined to reside there in the same state in which his father had left it, permitting Lady Lavington to modernise the furniture, according to her own taste, making a clause, that his library should not feel the power of innovation, and as Lady Lavington had

had no *use* for the contents of this apartment, and of course no desire to visit it; no infraction had been made on the treaty *here*; though something like one had been attempted on the night of the gala in Grosvenor-street.

Avon-place was situated on the borders of the New-Forest, in Hampshire; but the mind of susceptibility must turn from viewing its beauties to sorrowful retrospection, when it reflects on the aristocratic violence, and rapacious cruelty of the conquering William, who, determining to hunt upon this spot, depopulated the country for thirty miles round, turning out the inhabitants, seizing their property, without deigning to make the sufferers any compensation—driving from their sheltering huts, their simple food, and their humble peat fire, the poor though happy tenants of its shade. “In our mind’s eye” we behold these houseless children of poverty, sorrow, and despotic violence, departing from their straw thatched

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cottages,

cottages, endeared to them by that indescribable attachment we ever feel for the place where we first drew the breath of existence; that is rendered sacred by having witnessed our many joys and many sorrows—for we view with melancholy pleasure even the spot that has seen our griefs. With bitter regret and heart-rending sighs, for being compelled to leave the chearful haunts of their youth, see them depart; with slow and lingering steps they quit the scene that once bounded all their hopes and wishes:—but “where to find a place of rest?—The world is not their friend, nor the world’s law!”

Behold yon athletic rustic, like another Æneas, bearing on his shoulders his bed-ridden fire; while his sorrow-stricken partner follows slow, casting “a longing, lingering look behind,” and offers up a prayer to those household gods, from whose protection she is driven forth, to gratify the pleasure of an usurping tyrant; whilst one infant is tied to her back, another hangs at her

her breast, imbibing unconscious the bitter draught of misery, its mother's affliction mingles with its sustenance; while two boys of larger growth, unite their little efforts to support their exhausted parent.—The father tries to beguile their fatigues, and cheer his desponding family, with hopes of their being enabled again to eat the brown bread, procured by labour in some secluded dell, where there would be no temptation, from the beauty of its situation, for a *regal* tyrant to turn them out, again like Cain to wander. But the justice of Omnipotence, who even in *this* world avenges oppression, permitted the son of the detestable conqueror to meet his death, hunting in this forest, by a *heaven-commissioned* arrow, from the hand of Sir Walter Tyrrel.

Ellinor was charmed with this romantic and beautiful country. The mornings were devoted to study, and the evenings to making or receiving visits from the neighbouring families, whose seats skirted this kingly domain :

main : she never found herself so truly happy ; Sir James treated her more like his child than a dependant, took great pains to expand her ideas, and to improve her natural fine talents. Health gave added bloom to her cheeks and elasticity to her limbs ; which, aided by the chearfulness of her disposition, made her appear like the laughter-loving goddess, descended to banish care from mortality. At her appearance Sorrow disappeared, and festive Joy and innocent Hilarity supplied its place.

The sombre tints that had for years shaded Avon-place and its inhabitants, were dispersed by the animating radiance of her playful vivacity ; all acknowledged its influence, and wished to partake its pleasures. The consequence of this change of mind in the family of Lavington, was an alteration of its manners. The windows of the ball-room were thrown open ; the ivy that had almost overgrown them, felt the power of the gardener's shears ; the bird of night disturbed,
“ revisited

“ revisited the glimpses of the moon ;” but Ellinor prayed the martin’s nests might be held sacred, for it made her miserable to see them taking their airy circles, watching the depopulating Jacob, as he threatened destruction to their mud-built residence

“ Why Lord, Miss, you won’t be able to see through the *windows*, if you leave these here *nests* ; for the *beastes* have made them three inches thick with dirt.”

“ Well, my good Jacob, but they can be cleaned, without disturbing our winged visitors ; for, consider, they come a great journey to see us, and are only summer-guests, therefore we should treat them hospitably ; as they prove their confidence in us, by rearing their young under the protection of our roofs. Besides, it is an old adage, that you, Jacob, would not have any luck, if you were to destroy their little habitations ; nor should I ever gain a lover in this ball-room, if I was to allow you to treat its visitors with ingratitude,”

“ Oh Lord, no fear of that, Miss Ellinor, you have showed your power enough to get these *ere windows* once more open ; and I do *ear*, that there is to be *crowding* and dancing again at Avon-place ; and I do *ope* we shall have a little junketting in the *all*, such as we had when Sir James, God blefs him, came of age. This floor has never been footed upon since that time :— well do I remember the day—it will be just twenty-one years come the twentieth of next month.”

“ Well, Jacob, spare my favourite martins and their progeny, and I will use all my little interest with your lady, that you shall once more rejoice on the birth-day of your worthy master.”

“ Oh ! thank you, Miss, then I be sure we shall be merry, for its *moral impossible* to refuse your pretty face any thing ; for you be a nice one ; all our young Squires round about vow you be the comliest young body in the three counties.” Sir Harry’s butler did say so in servant’s *all* yesterday ;

God

God bless you, my pretty young lady! it even does my old heart good to see you smile."

Ellinor now ran off laughing, and Jacob returned to the business of clipping ivy, and pruning vines.

She did not forget her promise of offering up Jacob's petition for a holiday the twentieth of the next month,—which she backed with all her powers of persuasion, to induce Lady Lavington to give on that day a rural *fête* to her tenants and servants; nor did she sue in vain; aided by the solicitations of Augusta, her ladyship gave a smiling assent.

The young ladies ordering their horses, took a ride through the vistas of the forest, to plan their rural *fête champêtre*, and enjoy the pleasures they promised themselves from it in imagination. On their return they stopped to enquire after the family at Morton-abbey, the seat of Mrs. Oswald.—

They found her domestic establishment all bustle and flutter, from my lady's own woman, to the scullion in the kitchen, in busy preparation to receive a niece of their lady's, who was just married to a man of fashion, and who was expected for a visit of a month. An era of so much consequence in the annals of Morton Abbey, could not fail to call forth unusual exertions. Murder stalked abroad with giant stride! turkies gobbled! ducks quacked! hens cackled! as the cook advanced with thoughts of "dire portent, meditating death;" whilst Mrs. Girkin, the housekeeper, shewed her art, by torturing the pastry into every grotesque shape her fancy could devise, (from St. George and the dragon, to the *stag's horns* of ominous portent, that graced the hall chimney,) to do honour to the new married couple, who had chosen the shades of the abbey to *exhaust* the felicity of their honey moon.

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The ladies not wishing to add to the confusion, did not alight, but cantered home, amusing themselves with the strange bustle those expected fashionable visitors had created among the formal inmates of Morton Abbey, and with wondering who they could be. At this moment a turn in the road presented to them a *suite* of carriages and their attendant lackeys, ornamented with white and silver favours.

“As I live,” exclaimed Augusta, “here are Mr. Oswald’s new married visitors; let us stop our horses, we shall get a look at the blooming bride.”

At this moment passed them an elegant phaeton, drawn by four blood horses; but they were transfixed with astonishment when, in the person of the lady, they recognised her who had occasioned Campley so much satirical notice from the good natured morning prints, by the eccentric behaviour of her party at Ranelagh; and in the character of the

envied bridegroom, they beheld the *admirable Campley* : he bowed most graciously to the ladies, as he rapidly passed them. In a travelling chariot, looking most exultingly happy, followed close behind, the man of crimson and his well-fed help-mate. In Campley's carriage came the Abigails, close wedged in with handboxes, dressing apparatus, jewel-cases, &c. the pompous parade of modern matrimony ; valets, footmen, grooms, and led horses, closed the cavalcade.

After viewing the *finale*, Augusta broke the silence they had preserved by a loud fit of laughing, crying, " Dear Ellinor, let us gallop home, and amuse my father and mother with all the wonderfals we have heard and seen : what would I not have given had we alighted at the Abbey, to have beheld the prim Mrs. Oswald's reception of her new quality cousin and her city relations ? what a *struggle* will she have to sustain, between the pleasure of displaying to her wondering neighbours, the brilliant and pompous

pous establishment of her guests, and her avaricious pangs in providing for so large a retinue ! oh ! it would have been to me a delectable treat. I will write to Lady Fanny Flutter to-morrow, and entreat her to hasten here before all the fun and frolic are evaporated."

Ellinor did not promise herself quite so much entertainment as her friend from their new neighbours ; she both feared and hated Campley, though she thought herself safe from his machinations, while he was surrounded by his wife and her friends, but as she had never made Augusta her *confidante*, she said nothing to her upon the subject of her present chagrin. On their return, Augusta, delighted with the idea of the pleasurable scenes Mrs. Oswald's visitors presented to her view, began immediately on entering the drawing-room, to recount the marvellous adventure they had met in their evening ride, and to describe the pompous parade of the new-married pair. That Co-

lonel Campley was the happy man, but who was his bride, or in what relation of consanguinity she stood to the family of Oswald, she knew not, but was dying to be informed. After starting various conjectures, by which they were not at all enlightened, they retired for the night.

At breakfast next morning, the newspapers announced that on Thursday last were married, by special licence, the honourable Edward Campley, son to the late, and brother to the present Earl of Fairfield, to Miss Cayenne, heiress to Sir Christopher Cayenne, an accomplished young lady with a fortune of one hundred thousand pounds !

“ Well,” observed Sir James, “ the gallant, gay Lothario of the fashionable *belles* of the last ten years, has now set their fluttering hearts at rest, by having made his election, and taking upon him the title of *benedict* the married man. I should rejoice at the *denouement*, could I suppose it would

put a stop to his gallantry; but, if I know Campley, it will only enable him to pursue them with still greater avidity, by the help of the citizen's gold."

"Is it possible, Sir," asked Ellinor, "that there are men so abandoned to take the most serious oath at the altar, to love, cherish, and protect the woman to whom they mean to do neither? but marry merely for the fortune, that is doomed to give him power to break through the vows he has made?"

"Yes, Ellinor, there are such, that by the usages of the fashionable world are caressed and admitted into the best regulated families; but as they form the greater mass of mankind—if *they* were not received, how would our daughters get partners at their balls, or their mothers fill their routs?"

"You must have observed, in the small intercourse you have as yet had with the world, that the *ladies* manage these things better than the *men*; that a spice of libertinism

libertinism in the character of a man of ton, is only denominated fire and spirit, and instead of occasioning the doors of good company to be shut against him, is an inducement to their opening more readily.

“ The men are not alone to blame, for there are women, whom ambition or avarice daily induce to sacrifice themselves to age, disease, and ugliness, to gratify either or both of these passions. With many, matrimony is a mere matter of bargain and sale, perfectly understood by the parties, to whom, whatever may be the consequence, no pity can adhere!—such, most probably, has been the inducement of the couple that has occasioned the present animadversions.

“ The lady marries to leave the odious city, to forget the name of her honest forefathers in a *title*; to despise all the friends of her youth, and to be despised in her turn by her new associates, who, envying the elegance of her carriages, her superb
establish-

establishment, and the brilliancy of her diamonds, will never be induced to forget the plebeian original from whence she sprung, or the sources of trade from which they were derived. The only compensation those ladies can make themselves for the deprivation of such desirable advantages, is to render them of small utility to their possessor, convincing her they cannot contribute to the happiness of their *owner*,—making her perfectly miserable by satirical inuendoes on her obscure genealogy, and treating her, when in their society, with contemptuous neglect, while she sighs, and “is no duchess in her heart”

“ Her *caro sposo*, determined to sell his title and person to the best advantage, takes the daughter of some rich citizen, who has the quality *mania* strongest on him, and bids the highest for his hobby-horse—of the lady he thinks but little, his *devoirs* are paid to her fortune; whether she is old or young,
ugly

ugly or handsome, fat or lean, wise or foolish, does not give him a second thought, for the pleasures he fails of finding at home, he comforts himself by the assurance her money will amply supply him with abroad.

“ I once heard an acquaintance of mine say, who was rallied upon leaving his lady at the end of the *honey-week*, to go upon a party of pleasure to Paris; “ My wife has no cause of complaint; she married me to give herself consequence, I took her because I wanted money; both are satisfied; she is mistress of her time, I *will* be master of mine—but, as to being chained like Ixion to the matrimonial wheel, that she must not expect.”

“ I fancy Campley will make just such a husband. To what a length have I drawn out my remarks; but I see my horses are ready, and in the course of my ride I shall call at Morton Abbey, and leave my card.”

Ellinor

Ellinor thanked Sir James for giving her so much worldly knowledge, though it induced her to have a very contemptible opinion of the matrimonial couples of the present times—while Augusta exclaimed :

“ My dear Sir, you have given us such a philippic on modern matrimony, that would prevent the most determined from becoming a wife at an era when all arrows but golden ones have lost their effect.”

“ Let not my representations alarm you,” said Sir James, “ there are still worthy men left in the world ; and I hope, my dear girls, you will one day meet with them.”

Here Lady Lavington returned, who had been absent before this conversation commenced, or, for cogent reasons, Sir James would not have expressed his sentiments so decidedly. She told them she was going to send cards of congratulation to Morton Abbey, as a proper prelude to the complimentary visit they must make to Colonel and Mrs. Campley.

Ellinor

Ellinor supposed it would be looked on more as a liberty than a civility for *her* to send one, but as she was acquainted with Campley, it was thought no more than decorous; and her objection was consequently over-ruled by Lady Lavington, who sent her name with the rest of the family.

CHAP. XXI.

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AS the *dramatis personæ* of Morton Abbey will be brought frequently before our readers, we think a sketch of their characters, or rather of their *no* characters, will be necessary. Its late possessor (Mr. Oswald) was the youngest son of a younger brother, and consequently had but a small patrimony; as he preferred the quiet of trade to the bustle of war, he thought he was more likely to make a fortune by commerce, than by wielding a truncheon. This determination was powerfully combatted by the family of Oswald, which was as ancient and respectable as any private gentleman's in the kingdom, whose quarterings with the first families were innumerable

merable, having often intermarried with the *Scions* of many a noble house, but they had never been contaminated by a man of business, from the time of the Norman Conqueror, in whose *suite* they came to England;—he presented their ancestors with Morton Abbey, and its rich domains: but Death, that leveller of all distinctions, had taken such sure aim at Mr. Oswald's progenitors, that at the age of fifty he found himself the *last* branch of the family tree; and became of course, what he had never flattered himself with the most distant hopes of being, the heir of Morton Abbey and the surrounding estate.

At the time this unexpected addition was made to his fortune, it found Mr. Oswald an Oporto merchant of much respectability, and tolerably *warm*, in the city acceptance of the word:—he had married early in life, from prudential motives, the widow of his late master, though she was double his age; at her death, which happened five years  
after

after their marriage, he made a second choice, guided by inclination, his heart having long yearned for Mrs. Molly Cayenne, the blooming handmaid of the late Mrs. Oswald, who in due time ascended from the housekeeper's-room to the parlour, where the weakness of her intellects led her to conceive the only means to make those to whose society she was now raised, forget the meanness of her origin, and enforce respect from her inferiours, was to behave with distant reserve to the former, and with haughty pride and insolent petulance to the latter—by this conduct she rendered herself the ridicule and detestation of both parties.

At the time Mr. Oswald took possession of Morton Abbey, he had one son and three daughters; he immediately quitted trade, and brought down his family to the seat of his ancestors, determined to reside in it altogether, without retaining a house in London—that he would devote the remainder of his life to rural sports and social intercourse

course with his neighbours, by all of whom with their families he was visited on his arrival.

Mr. Oswald, who had received the education of a gentleman, was intelligent, humane, and generous, the real character of a *British merchant*; consequently the gentlemen of the county were happy in such an acquisition to their society.

Not so his lady—her appearance at the first view was truly forbidding—upright, stiff, and formal; disappointed pride scowled in her eye, envy jaundiced her cheek, and griping avarice had worn her to the bone:—so disgusting did she appear at the first view, that all intercourse with her, but formal dinners of ceremony to be paid and received when the moon was at its full, was *voted* against by every female in the vicinity.

Thus being left alone to stalk in state through the lofty apartments that solemnly  
rever-



reverberated her steps to the gallery that contained the pictures of her husband's ancestors, who, clad in armour, with their vizors up, their stiff-topped gloves, their pointed beards, and fierce mustachoes, with their courtly dames, be-ruffed and farthingaled from top to toe, appeared, as she reviewed them, to her sickly fancy, to grin disapprobation, or smile contempt, on the choice of their degenerate heir.

Thus, in joyless solitude, fullen discontent, and pompous inanity, did Mrs. Oswald wear away existence, — “ unblessing and unblessed.” Her husband was a man of sense, and had in the first years of their marriage tried to improve her mind, but he found her not formed of that plastic clay that could be modelled to his taste ; therefore he had long since ceased to remonstrate, but bore like a philosopher the mortification he was doomed to suffer from her folly and ignorance, as a proper punishment for having consulted his fancy alone in chusing her

for a wife, and giving to his children a mother who was equally incapable of either instructing or managing them.

Mr. Oswald is not a singular instance of the ill consequences that attend an improper choice; for domestic harmony and mutual confidence cannot subsist in a matrimonial connexion, where passion, not reason, leads to the altar. We have before in the course of this work attempted to inculcate the doctrine, that esteem is the only real foundation to support happiness, and we wish to impress on the minds of our young readers, for whose amusement, and, we hope, *instruction*, these sheets were penned, that the only chance for substantial pleasure in the marriage state is, where the ages, situation of life, and intellectual acquirements, are nearly on an *equality*—of the adventitious gifts of fortune it is immaterial on which side the balance lies; but, for real comfort, the other requisites are indispensable.

Sir

Sir James Lavington's seat being only four miles distant from Mr. Oswald's, and as Sir James admired his honest heart, candour, and rectitude of conduct, they had been on the most friendly terms, ever since his residence in Hampshire. Mrs. Oswald was of course a more frequent visiter at Avon Place than to any other family, and her daughters acquired some polish by often partaking in Miss Lavington's amusements, for they had been very much neglected; their understandings were not brilliant, nor did they possess beauty in the smallest degree—with a decent education, they might have been tolerable *every-day* characters, such as neither raise wonder, nor inspire disgust. The son and heir inherited all the pride, petulance, and ignorance of his mother, whose darling he consequently was, and by whom he had been completely spoiled.

With Mr. Oswald's portion of good sense, he saw his children, as they really *were*, not as he wished them *to be*. Being deter-

mined to exert himself that they might receive all the instruction of which their abilities were capable, he applied to Sir James for his advice, who recommended a public school for his son, as Mrs. Oswald's mistaken fondness would effectually prevent his receiving any benefit from the instructions of a private tutor in the house with her: he proposed Eton, as a place where emulation was a spur to genius.

For his daughters, he advised him to make it worth the while of some respectable and well-bred woman, by allowing her a handsome stipend, to become a resident at Morton Abbey, to superintend their education, and as he did not mean to pass his winters in London, to have masters from the neighbouring city to assist her.

This advice, so congenial to his own ideas, he determined implicitly and immediately to follow; though he was well aware he should have to combat with the avarice  
and



and prejudices of his wife through every stage of his exertions. Conscious that he had given his children a mother perfectly incapable of instructing them in any sort of knowledge their situation of life rendered necessary, his resolutions were now unalterable.

Inexorable to the entreaties and tears of Mrs. Oswald, he set out in his travelling chaise with the *hopes of the family*; whom having placed at Eton, he returned to London, where he was so fortunate (through the recommendation of a lady, a friend of Sir James Lavington's) to procure the widow of an officer, who had received a liberal education, and, in her husband's life-time, had mixed in the politest circles, but at his death was left with only the small annuity allowed by Government to support the families of men who die fighting for their country.

This lady was prevailed upon to undertake the care of the Miss Oswalds. From the  
P 3 advantage

advantage to be derived from such an instructress, their father began to hope that something might be made of his girls; but, before she had been one year in the family, they had the irreparable misfortune to lose their parent; his death was almost sudden, occasioned by imprudently going into a cold bath, when he was much heated by hunting; and Mrs. Oswald very soon after dismissed her daughters' governess, observing, that, though poor Mr. Oswald was induced to believe the contrary, *she* was perfectly *capable* of superintending their education, and a hundred guineas per annum would be much more useful to *them*, than any advantage they could derive from the society of such a *very fine lady* as Mrs. Rivers.

Some few months before the death of Mr. Oswald, he called upon Sir James Lavington, and, as if he had a presentiment of the fate that awaited him, said,

That he was “ come to request a very great favour—no less, than that he would  
accept

accept the office of being executor to his will, and become a guardian to his children, jointly with their mother ;" adding, " you know, my dear friend, how totally incapable she is, poor woman, to conduct them or herself.—On my informing her, that I meant to request you to confer on me this obligation, it met her perfect approbation; but she is very earnest that her brother should be joined with you in the trust.—He is an honest, good-hearted, well-meaning man, and I should have no objection to comply with her request, but from the fear that you would not chuse to act with a person whose understanding and pursuits in life are so different from your own."

Sir James replied, that to oblige him and serve his children, he could not refuse to take upon him the guardianship of their persons and fortunes, and he would most assuredly exert himself to see justice done them, though it was a task that nothing short of the very great friendship he felt for him

him and his family could have induced him to accept; that he should prefer their uncle's being joined with him in the trust, as it would be the means of convincing Mrs. Oswald, that every thing would be done to promote their interest.

“ My dear Sir James, your acceding to my request has relieved my mind from a load by which it has been long oppressed; by leaving my children to the care of so proper a protector, I shall quietly resign myself, when called to the inevitable fate of mortality, without one apprehensive pang for their future welfare.

“ As you have expressed not only your approbation, but a wish for their uncle's acting jointly with you, perhaps a sketch of his history who is to be your coadjutor will not be disagreeable nor unimportant; it may amuse you, by adding one more instance to the many that occur every day, to prove how Fortune treats her favourites—that she is not unjustly painted blind, when she enables men of such contemptible understandings



standings and mean ideas to roll in their carriages, live on the luxuries of the land, amidst all the pleasures and profusion, that countless wealth can procure;—whilst the sons of modest worth and science, if opposed by the fickle goddess, are seen every day pining in obscurity, or languishing from neglect, condemned, by the exertion of talents, to make their way in the world, for lack of patronage—like Sisyphus, they are propelled to roll the stone, which when, like him, they flatter themselves with having reached the goal, recoils upon the unfortunate labourers.”

Sir James assured him that he should be gratified by hearing the rise and progress of this favourite son of Fortune.

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# Errata.



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| Page | line | 3,  | for | our,       | — | read        | of | our         |
|------|------|-----|-----|------------|---|-------------|----|-------------|
| 58,  | -    | 7,  | —   | nephw      | — | nephew      | —  | nephew      |
| 132, | -    | 2,  | —   | in ther    | — | neither     | —  | neither     |
| 146, | -    | 20, | —   | should     | — | should not  | —  | should not  |
| 169, | -    | 20, | —   | derniere   | — | dernier     | —  | dernier     |
| 234, | -    | 14, | —   | rogue      | — | a rogue     | —  | a rogue     |
| 236, | -    | 13, | —   | will       | — | will        | —  | will        |
| 244, | -    | 7,  | —   | substantia | — | substantial | —  | substantial |
| 269, | -    | 18, | —   | obstruse   | — | abstruse    | —  | abstruse    |
| 277, | -    | 16, | —   | confidante | — | confidante  | —  | confidante  |
| 291, | -    | 17, | —   | scences    | — | scenes      | —  | scenes      |